Nusaybin 2016
Zero

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR EXPERIENCES DURING THE CURFEWS AND FORCED MIGRATION

We would like to thank `PEL YAPIM` for conducting research and many individuals who contributed to it with their surveys, interviews, observation notes, and original reports from the ground: Fatma and Çiçek in Diyarbakir region; Gulan and Fatma in Nusaybin region; Esra and Öznur in Mersin region; Beritan and Umran in Şirnak region; Newroz and Zelal in Cizre region; Demgül and Dilek in Silopi-Idil region; Ayla, Aytan, and Merve in Istanbul region; Beritan and Dilan in Yüksekova region. We would also like to thank Necla for checking the field data, for analysis of data and graphic work, and Zelal for her help in writing the report, and Burhan for his contributions.

Also, we would like to thank Leyla for translating the report into English, Anna and Sara for their contributions to reductions and edition of the report.

First Edition: 2019

Project Team : İlyas Erdem, Yeter Tan, Zana Kibar

Book Cover Design: Zozan Eser

Cover Photo: Zehra Doğan

Press: Berdan Matbaası / Sadık Daşdöğen

Güven Sanayi Sitesi C Blok No: 239 Topkapı / İstanbul

Tel: 0212 613 12 11

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR EXPERIENCES DURING THE CURFEWS AND FORCED MIGRATION

This report was prepared by financial support of European Union, while responsibilities related to its content belong to Göç Izleme Derneği (Migration Monitoring Association)

CONTENTS

Immigration Monitoring Association **7**

1. PREFACE **8**

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY **11**

3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY **14**

4.1. Demographic Data *15*

4.2. Period of Curfews *30*

4.3. Out of The City / Migration Period *88*

4.4. Post-Migration *101*

Evaluation And Urgent Recommendations *164*

Conclusion *166*

Chart 1 The provinces where the study was conducted 15

Chart 2 Age distribution of the participants 16

Chart 3 Marital status of the participants 16

Chart 4 Education status 17

Chart 5 Cross-analysis status of age and education 17

Chart 6 Occupation graphic 18

Chart 7 Social insurance graphic 18

Chart 8 Social insurance types 19

Chart 9 Information about social insurance before migration 20

Chart 10 Avarage number of people in the household 21

Chart 11 Frequency of children`s attendance of school during the blockades 22

Chart 12 Information about education status of children during the conflicts 24

Chart 13 Information about mother tongue of participants 27

Chart 14 Languages known other than mother tongue 27

Chart 15 Information about whether participants had migrated before 2015 28

Chart 16 Causes of migration 29

Chart 17 Was a curfew declared in 2015-2016 in the place where you lived? 33

Chart 18 Information about how many curfews were declared 34

Chart 19 How long did curfews last? 35

Chart 20 Violations of basic human rights that occurred during the curfews and the blockades 37

Chart 21 Basic needs which were difficult to meet during the curfews and the blockade 42

Chart 22 Cross-table of basic needs which were difficult to meet during and following the curfews 44

Chart 23 How did people provide for their water needs? 46

Chart 24 Most consumed food during the curfews 49

Chart 25 Violations of human rights that occurred 51

Chart 26 Were participants exposed to violence? 54

Chart 27 Situations that were witnessed 56

Chart 28 Did privacy breaches occurred during the curfews? 58

Chart 29 By whom was privacy violated? 60

Chart 30 Types of privacy breaches that participants encountered 62

Chart 31 Examples of attacks on private and family life 63

Chart 32 Did participants witness or were exposed to harrasment during the curfews and blockades 65

Chart 33 Examples of harrassment that participants witnessed 66

Chart 34 Situations that occurred during the curfews and blockades 69

Chart 35 Have health problems occurred during the curfews and blockades? 70

Chart 36 Health problems that occurred during curfews and blockade 72

Chart 37 Cases of pregnancy during curfews 74

Chart 38 Was pregnancy follow-up conducted? 75

Chart 39 Risks that occurred during pregnancy 76

Chart 40 Where was risky pregnancy treated? 77

Chart 41 Did problems occurr related to the mother or baby after the birth? 78

Chart 42 The rate of psychological problems that occurred during the curfews 80

Chart 43 The types of psychological problems that occurred 82
Chart 44 Graphic of feelings during and after curfews 85
Chart 45 The rate of economic impact during curfews 86
Chart 46 Statistics of forced migration that occurred during curfews 88
Chart 47 Percentage of participants that faced forced migration based on provinces and districts 90
Chart 48 Direction of migration movement based on receiving and sending provinces 91
Chart 49 By whom were they informed about migration? 92
Chart 50 With whom was the decision to immigrate made 94
Chart 51 Reasons of migration 95
Chart 52 Was any aid taken during curfews? 96
Chart 53 Individuals or institues from whom help was wanted due to problems that occurred during immigration 98
Chart 54 The types of help that were received 99
Chart 55 Material damages that occurred during immigration 101
Chart 56 Current graphic of the material situation of the household 103
Chart 57 Financial situation graphic of migration comparing early period with the current situation 105
Chart 58 Table of family members (women) who have begun working after migration 107
Chart 59 Information about housing situation before migration 108
Chart 60 Information about housing situation post-migration 109
Chart 61 Information about damage done to house 111
Chart 62 Was it decided to raze the house? 112
Chart 63 Cross-table of housing information before and after migration 114
Chart 64 Information about childbirth that occurred or was witnessed during blockades and post-ımmigration 116
Chart 65 Table of health problems that have occurred /have been witnessed 117
Chart 66 Psychological problems that have been experienced 119
Chart 67 Spiritual losses that were experinced during curfews and the following period 121

Chart 68 Has discrimination happened in the place to which you migrated? 123
Chart 69 Situations that affected and made life more difficult 125
Chart 70 Working situation of others in the household 126
Chart 71 Subsistance before migration 128
Chart 72 Have you applied for compention for what you lost at the end of the forced migartion? 129
Chart 73 Who prepared legal application? 130
Chart 74 Application results 131
Chart 75 Were damages compensated? 132
Chart 76 Why did not you apply to compensation for what you lost? 133
Chart 77 Differences in medical services before and after migration 134
Chart 78 Differences in education services before and after migration 134
Chart 79 The types of aid that were received from the government during blockade and migration 135
Chart 80 Was aid received regularly? 136
Chart 81 Aid that has been received from non profit organizations 137
Chart 82 Graphic of satisfaction about where migrants live currently 138
Chart 83 Cross-distribution graphic of satisfaction levels based on provinces 139
Chart 84 Changes that occurred to family members after migration 140
Chart 85 Table of needs that were difficult to provide 141
Chart 86 Cross table of needs that were hard to provide for and violations of basic 143
Chart 87 What do you think about returning to your former place? 144
Chart 88 The opinions of the participants about returning their former places 145
Chart 89 Table of urgent problems that must solved about living spaces 146
Chart 90 Distribution of urgent problems that must be solved in work places 148
Chart 91 What to do to strengthen the sense of justice after what occurred 149
Chart 92 When demands are met will it compensate for what they have lost 152

Immigration Monitoring Association

The following study was conducted to investigate individuals' basic rights and living conditions in the process of forced displacement and resettlement, as well as methods developed by people affected by these processes to address their problems.

Immigration Monitoring Association was established in 2016 in Istanbul. Its purpose is to assist individuals who were forcefully displaced or became refugees in their country because of a conflict, civil war, or social, economic and natural disasters. In addition, the association aims to support people in gaining their basic rights, to improve social unity between different groups, and to endorse the rights of people who have been displaced.

This report was written together with the NGOs working on the ground and with support of the Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey (EIDHR program), as part of the following project: "to support individuals who have been displaced in their country in gaining their social rights." This study aims to reveal basic rights violations experienced by women during the curfews that were declared in 2015-2016 and subsequently in the course of migration.

Preparation phase of the report was made within a year and field research was conducted simultaneously in ten cities in August. This report depends on the most comprehensive field research related to the curfews in 2015.

Tens of our friends made valuable contributions, work, and support the preparation, conducting and publishing of the report. We would like to thank all of our friends and everybody who contributed to the report.

1. PREFACE

500 thousand people were displaced, while 1 million 809 thousand people were affected indirectly during the curfews declared in 2015-2016 in Turkey. The state officially declared curfews at least 299 times in 11 provinces and 49 city districts. The first curfew was declared in the Varto district of Muş on 16 August 2015 and this situation continued until March 1, 2018. Within this period, estimated **3, 638 people lost their lives because of the conflict.**

Although curfews continued until 2018, the most intensive of them took place in 2015-2016. The number of the curfews and the name of the provinces are as follows: Diyarbakir (169 curfews), Mardin (48), Hakkâri (23), Şirnak (13), Bitlis (14), Muş (7), Bingöl (7), Tunceli (6), Batman (6), Elaziğ (2) and Siirt (4). Additionally, 127 districts in Dersim, Hakkâri, Mardin, Şirnak were declared by the state as a military zone.

A large portion of the population that lived in the areas affected by the curfews and blockades were the people whose villages had been evacuated and burned in the second half of the 1980s and in the 1990s and who were forced to migrate to big cities. Migrations between provinces and cities have been on the agenda due to military, socio-political-economic, cultural, and educational politics. Among the reasons for migration can be a search for better economic and educational conditions and health services. However, the same process can take place due to military and politic reasons. In this regard, for example, mass migration of the 1990s that occurred as a result of the forcible evacuations and burning of villages in the predominantly Kurdish region in southeastern Turkey can be interpreted as driven by military and political reasons. According to official reports, 3,448 Kurdish rural settlements were evacuated for so-called security reasons. NGOs estimate that 4 thousand settlements were evacuated and basic rights of between 2 and 4 million Kurdish citizens of the Republic of Turkey have been violated.[1] People who were forced to leave their home and land in that period migrated to predominantly Kurdish cities such as Diyarbakir, Van, Batman, Mardin, as well as to other big cities in Turkey.

---

[1] Human Rights Watch (HRW, 2002) estimates that 2 million people were displaced. Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT), Human Rights Association (HRA) and Immıgrant's Association for Social Cooperation and Culture Association (Göç-Der) estimate that between 3 and 4 million people were displaced.

NGOs and the state both initiated solutions and programs in early 2000s to compensate for the damages incurred by people during the village evacuations/burning. Even though the state was criticized by NGOs for not taking sufficient actions, The Republic of Turkey enacted "Compensation Law" to compensate for the damages incurred during the conflict—*Law No. 5233 on Compensation of Losses Resulting from Terrorist Acts and Measures Taken against Terrorism*. Law 5233 entered into force on July 17, 2004 in a vote by the Turkish Parliament. However, the rights violations that occurred during and after the displacement have not been compensated by the state.

Since 2013, democratization of Turkey and the Peace Process, implemented in the framework of a peaceful settlement for the Kurdish problem, have been a promising development in this regard. Although both sides took steps toward a negotiation with the Dolmabahçe Agreement on 28 February, 2015, the peace process suddenly failed. An armed conflict between local armed groups (YPS) and the government started anew in July 2015 in what is considered to be the most intensive period in 31 years of the civil war. In contrast to the earlier stages of the conflict, which lasted for decades, this time, armed conflicts were experienced not in rural areas, but in urban centers. Barricades and ditches, set up in urban centers, curfews, and armed clashes caused many violations of human rights. Fundamental rights and freedoms were violated, including the right to life. Near the end of 2015, the involvement of Turkish Armed Forces with tanks, cannons, helicopters, and heavy guns led to the destruction of city districts Şirnak, Cizre, Sur, Nusaybin, and Yüksekova.

During this process, people were not allowed to go into and out these cities; police and soldiers blocked city entrances with barricades. As this was happening, NGO representatives, journalists, doctors, lawyers, and party delegates were not allowed to enter these cities or get a permit to conduct their research there. It was very difficult to get information from these cities because electricity and telephone networks were cut off to prevent the contact with the outside world. International human rights groups, including UN, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Physicians for Human Rights, were prevented from entering these areas in order to document violations, even after the clashes ended and the curfews were lifted.

According to the 2014 population census, at least **1 million 809 thousand people** have been affected by the curfews in the districts where they were declared. Fundamental human rights such as **right to freedom and security**, right to private and family life, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of religion, freedom to receive and impart information, right to property protection, right to education, prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, **right to life, and right to physical integrity** were violated.[2]

---

[2] HRFT, curfews that were declared between 16 August 2015 – 1 March 2018.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

War and armed conflicts entail traumatic processes of violence, inequality, impoverishment, and displacement. Women are affected most by destructive processes of war. The problems faced by women during and after war, such as poverty, domestic violence, sexual assaults, are hidden from sight because of increasing militaristic discourses and practices. The masculine language of war silences women's voice and renders women's issues either invisible or perceived as issues of secondary importance. One of the fundamental goals of this report is to make visible different types of violence, war experiences, rights violations and many other issues experienced by women during the curfews declared in Kurdish cities in 2015-2016.

Violence against women is used as a tactic of war in wars and armed conflicts. Women's bodies, just like colonized territory, become a direct target of male colonizers. International law remained silent for many years in regards to violence against women. Even though millions of women were exposed to sexual violence during the First and Second World Wars, these crimes were no prosecuted in Tokyo and Nuremberg trials; neither were they recorded by courts. For a long time, sexual violence against women did not appear in the language of court cases, international law agreements and public sphere.

Thousands of women were victims of rape, sexual harassment and all kinds of violence during the armed conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda. As a result of women`s efforts, these violations were finally defined and prosecuted as "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity." Additionally, in an International Criminal Court statute, any violence against women is defined as a 'war crime' and 'crime against humanity'. Even though the Republic of Turkey is party to the ICC, many instances of violence against women, recognized as war crimes, took place during the curfews.

Violence against women and sexual assault are used as tools of war. They lead to the destruction of social and communal structures. Sexual assaults against women during a war are at the same time closely related to women's ethnic identities. The conflicts that took place during the curfews and the migration process, alongside state violence and social patriarchal codes, had a tremendous impact on Kurdish women as "fragile bodies." Colonial policies in regards to women's bodies were implemented through following practices during the curfews: exhibiting dead women's bodies, sexist writings on walls, police/military announcements, personal and private belongings used as targets for attacks. While both sides had different reasons for the conflict, it was a process that cannot be examined and understood without taking into consideration gender.

On the other hand, considering *only* sexual assaults and rape as rights violations is another tactic of male mentality. To accept women only as victims of sexual assault and to ignore them in the public sphere, opens the way to marginalizing other women's experiences such as psychological and physiological disorders, pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses, displacement, forced migration, impoverishment and other types of violence.

In this regard, one of the most important aims of the report is to reveal, in a comprehensive manner, all of the rights violations and war experiences of women. Furthermore, the main goal of this report is to shed light on women's resistance against violence, damages and losses experienced in this process, their struggle for human rights and strategies of survival.

Legal rules and administrative practices governing forced displacement and migration appear to be genderless. However, they are essentially based on certain gender structures, which they reinforce and reproduce. The goal of this report is to raise awareness about violations against women during and after the conflicts, to contribute to a rearrangement of legal regulations from a gender perspective, and to encourage reparations for the violations through restorative justice mechanisms. To this end, the study attempts:

a) To reveal women's own demands during the process of displacement and resettlement through a women-oriented gender perspective.

b) To shed light on difficulties that women faced, different types of violence against them, and their experiences during and after the conflicts.

c) To make recommendations to politicians and lawmakers in regards to ensuring access to and enjoyment of social rights by women who have been forcefully displaced.

d) To make women visible in analyzing migration and to emphasize the fact women may have different experiences from men in this process, due to differences in their gender roles.

e) To improve women's position in society by incorporating the perspective of gender equality into political and legal practices and eliminating women's inferior position in the society.

f) To prioritize regulations that focus on women's employment, increasing their status and autonomy through their involvement in production.

g) This report was prepared to be used in a cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and larger public, in order to make women visible during processes of internal migration.

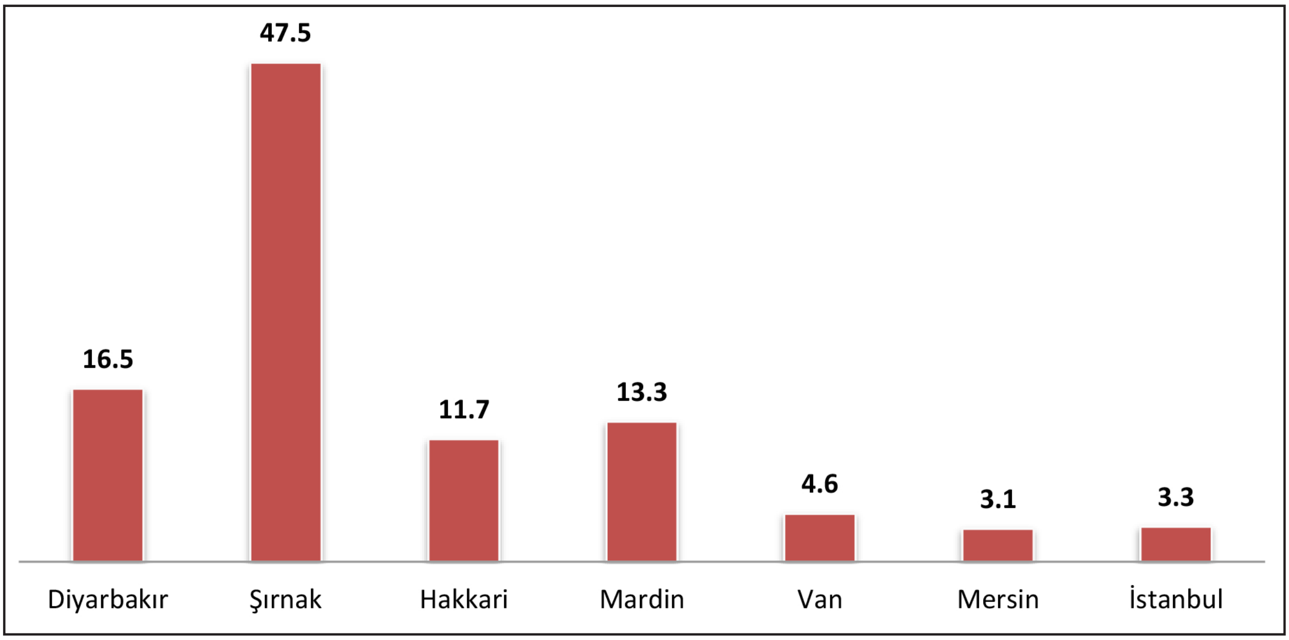
3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This research focuses on women whose rights were violated during the curfews in the provinces and city districts of Diyarbakir, Şirnak, Mardin, and Hakkâri, located in eastern and southeastern Anatolia, and during the subsequent process of displacement. In addition to the cities where migration originated, research was also conducted in cities in Turkey that received migrants, such as Istanbul, Mersin, and Van. Before conducting research, numerous meetings took place between experts and fieldwork teams to finalize research questions, methodology of the study, and fieldwork practices. Pilot studies were done before conducting fieldwork. Quantitative and qualitative research techniques were used in the research. The research began in August 2018 simultaneously in different cities with a group that consisted of 18 people. This study concentrates on the problems that arose during the curfews and that have not yet been solved to this date. The surveys used in the fieldwork consisted of 87 questions related to the social and economic situation of the female victims of the curfews and conflicts, physical structure of their housing, and socio-demographic information. The total of 480 women participated in the survey. Other methods were used to supplement the surveys and to form a better picture of the women's living conditions. Alongside the surveys, team members took notes based on their observations during the fieldwork.

This report was written based on surveys, non-structured interviews, observation notes, and observation reports. As our experienced during the fieldwork confirmed, the processes in question cannot be understood and analyzed with a single research method as they have many distinctive aspects. Various research methods were used to make lived experiences more understandable. At the same time, it should be noted that the research sheds light only on a portion of lived experiences.

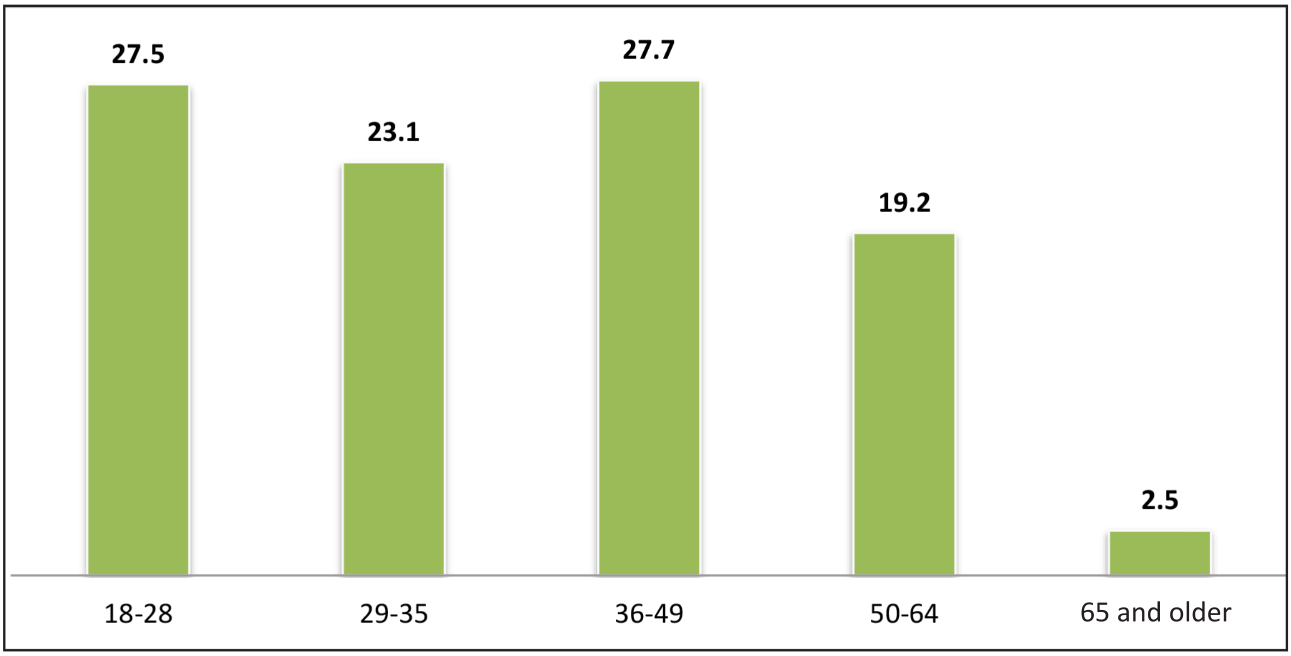
4.1. Demographic Data

Chart 1 **The provinces where the study was conducted**



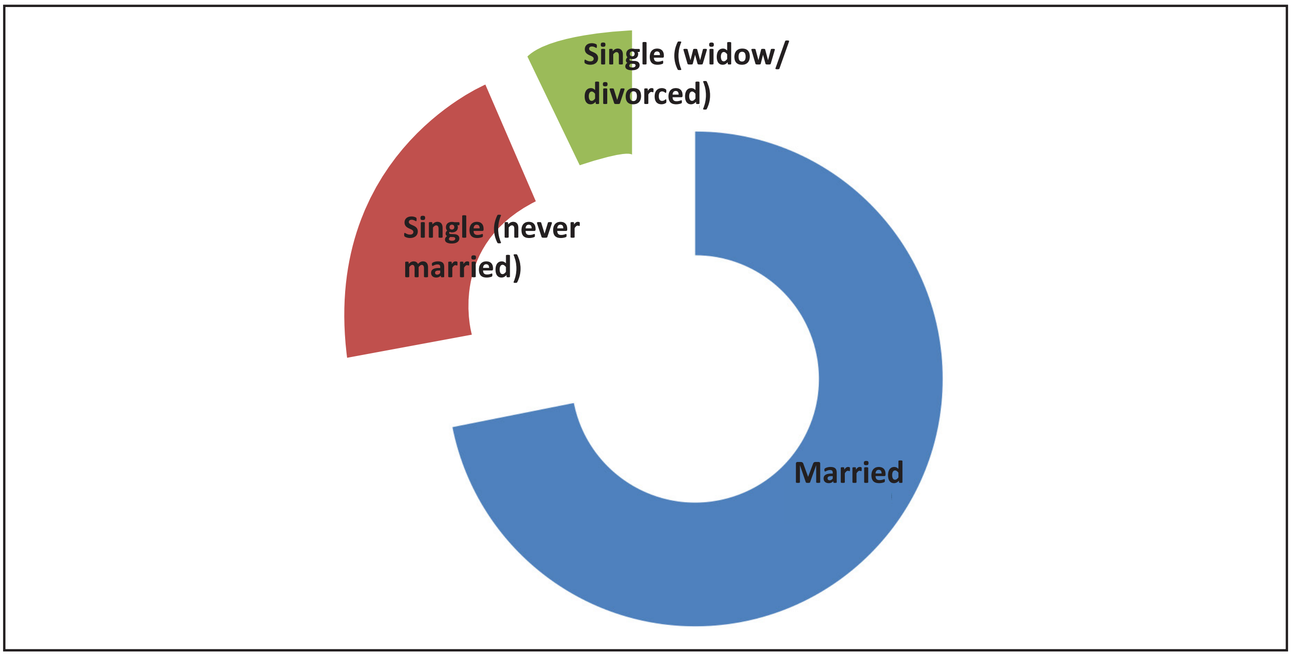
Fieldwork was carried out in the places where the conflicts took place during the curfews, as well as the places that received migrants as a result of the ensuing displacement. Research was conducted in 7 provinces and their city districts, with 480 participants interviewed. Based on the distribution of surveys, 47.5% of the participants were interviewed in Şirnak province (Şirnak, Cizre, Silopi, and Idil); 16,5% in Diyarbakir province (Sur); 13% in Mardin province (Nusaybin); 12% in Hakkari province (Yüksekova); 5% in Van; and 3% in Istanbul and Mersin.

Chart 2 **Age distributions of the participants**



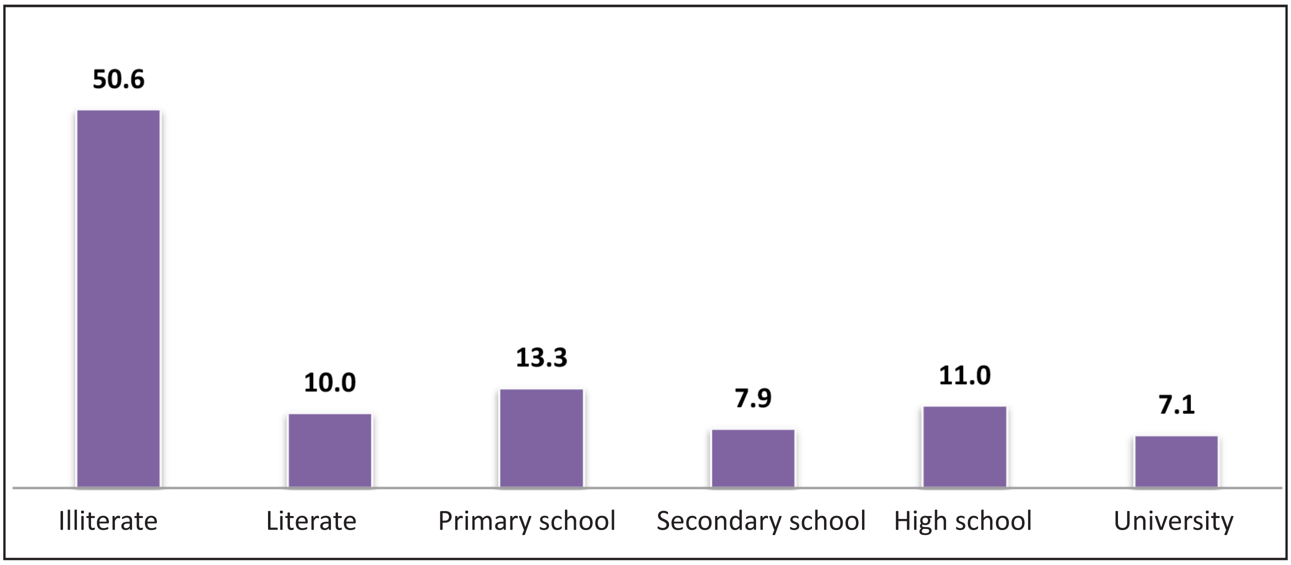
All participants are women over 18 years old. Age distribution of the participants is as follows: 27,5% between 18-28 years old; 28% between 36-49; 23% between 29-35; 19% between 50-64; and 3% are 65 and older.

Chart 3 **Marital status of the participants**



72% of the participants are married, 21% are single (never married); 7% are single (widow/divorced).

Chart 4 **Education status**



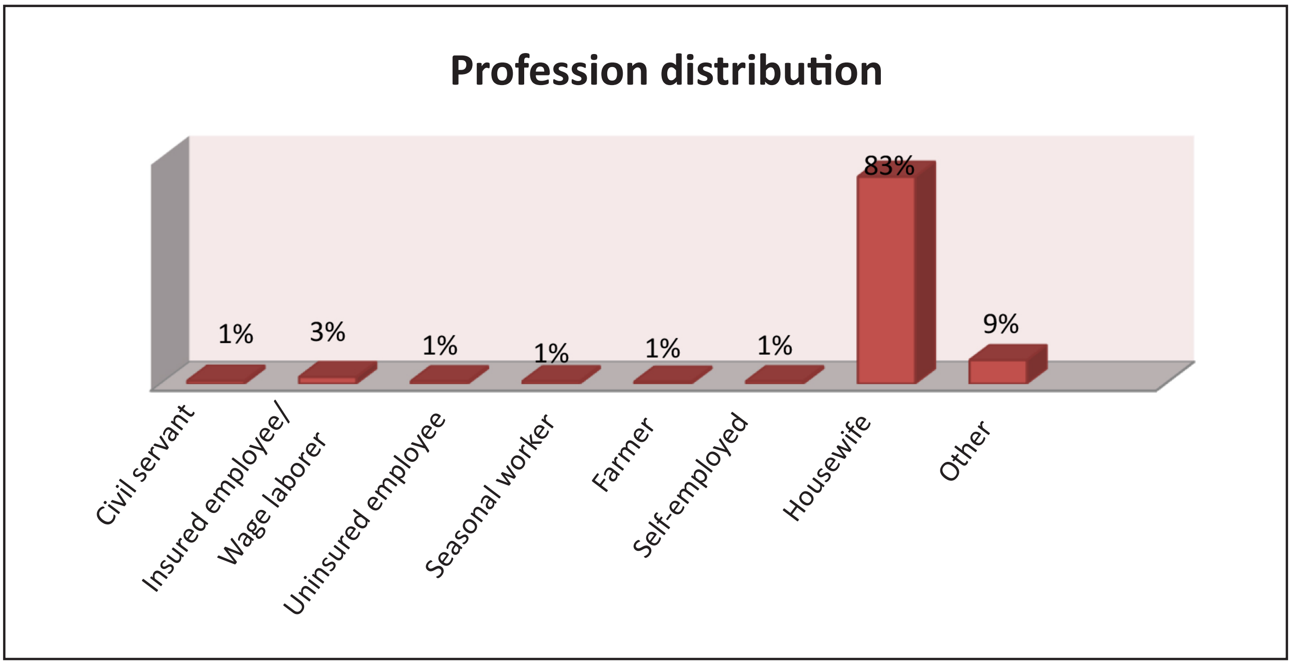
51% of the participants are illiterate; 10% are literate; 13% are primary school graduates; 8% are secondary school graduates; 11% are high-school graduates; and 7% are university graduates.

Chart 5 **Cross-analysis of age and education status**

	18-28	29-35	36-49	50-64	65 and older
Illiterate	7%	17%	35%	36%	5%
Literate	15%	40%	40%	6%	0%
Primary school	33%	38%	27%	3%	0%
Secondary school	66%	18%	16%	0%	0%
High school	77%	15%	8%	0%	0%
University	62%	32%	6%	0%	0%

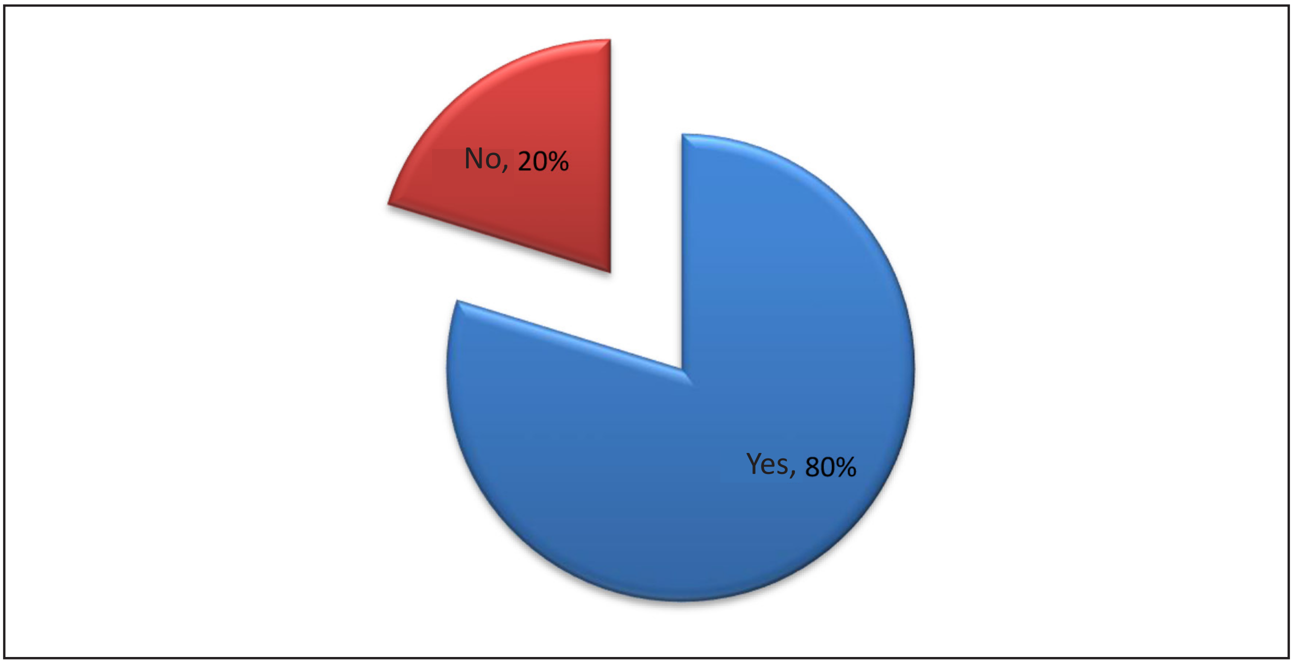
As is shown in the table 5, 62% of the participants of the age between 18-28 years old and 32% of the participants of the age between 29-35 years old are university graduates. 9% of women of the age 65 and older and women of the age between 56-64 years old stated that they are illiterate.

Chart 6 **Occupation graphic**



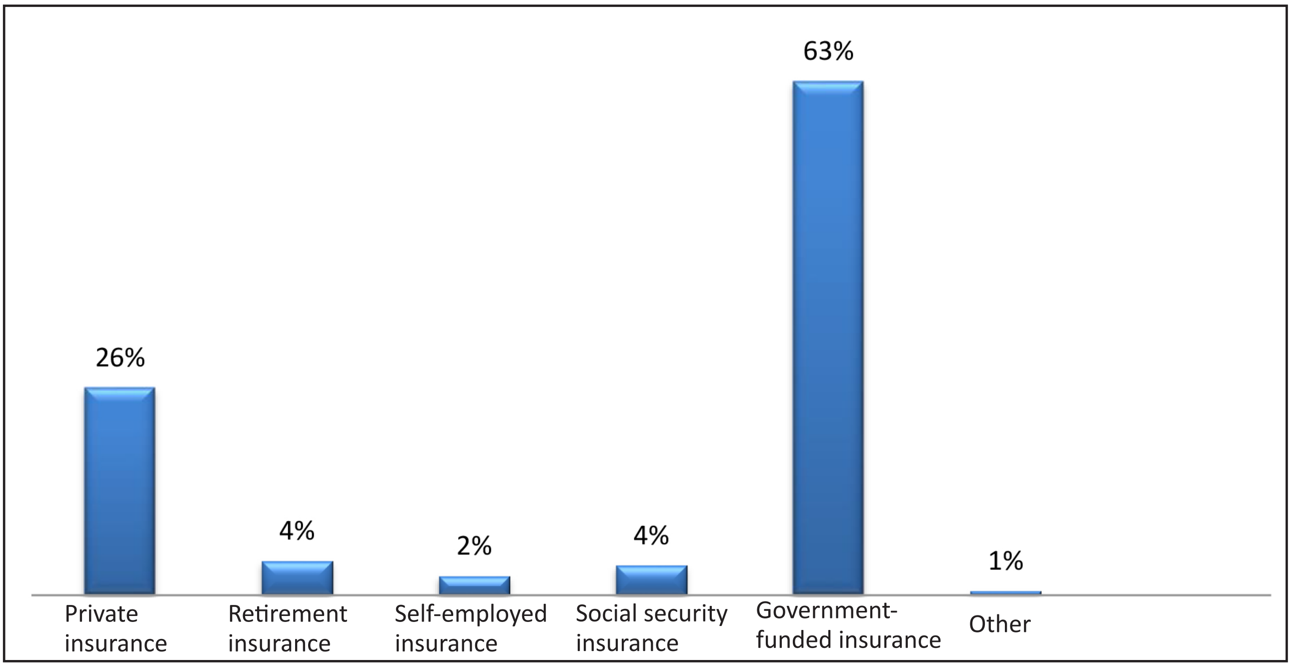
83% of the participants are housewives; 3% are employed with insurance; civil servants; uninsured individuals, seasonal workers, and self-employed constitute each 1%; 9% stated to have other occupations.

Chart 7 **Social insurance graphic**



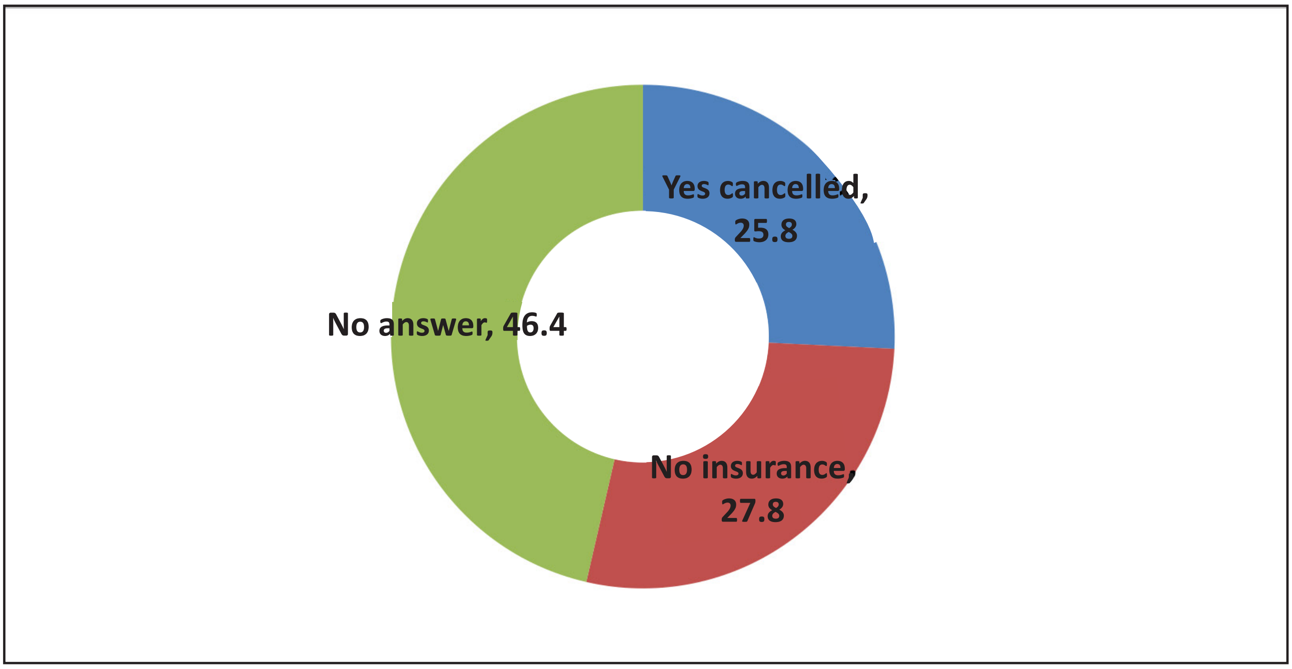
80% of the participants have some form of insurance; 20% have none.

Chart 8 **Social insurance types**



63% of the participants have government-funded insurance; 26% have social security insurance.

Chart 9 **Information about social insurance (pre-migration)**



28% of the participants did not have any social insurance even before migration; 26% had insurance before migration but they lost it during or after the curfews; 46% of the participants did not answer this question.

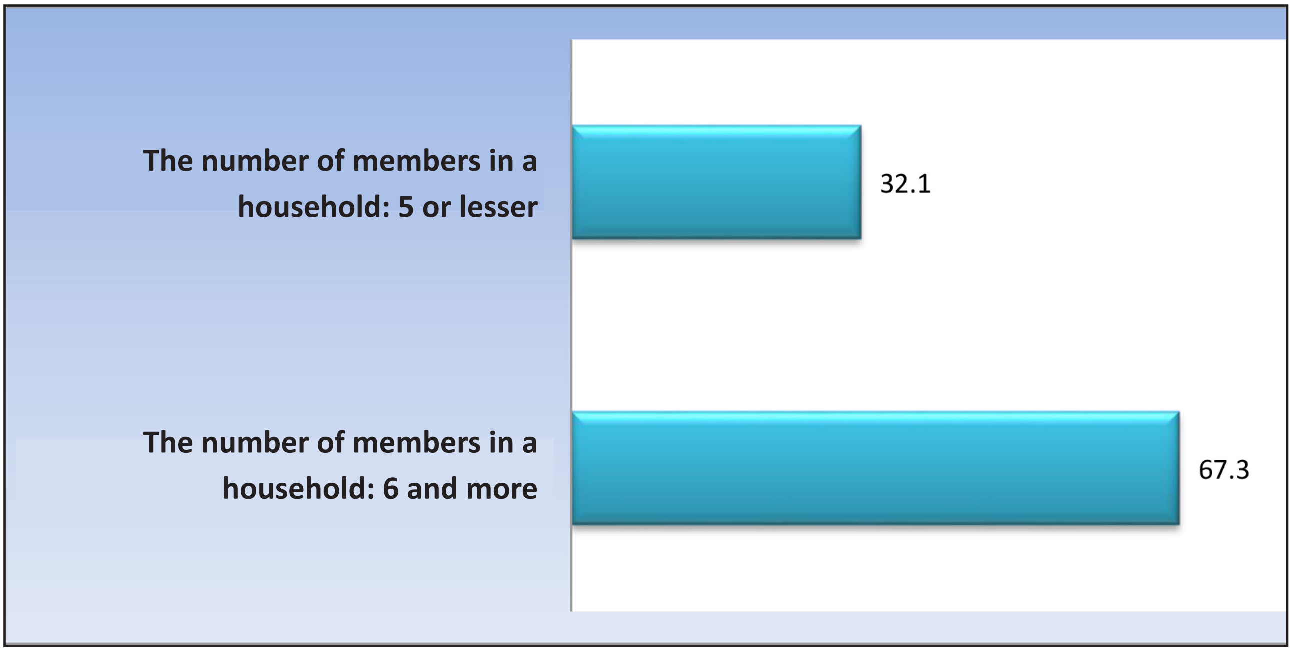
"My son was working in the municipality and I was benefiting from his insurance. So, after they had laid him off, I lost my insurance. I applied for health insurance, but I am still waiting to get it. I had insurance before the curfew, but I do not have it now."[3]

"My husband was working in the city hall and they laid him off. Our health insurance was cancelled when he lost his job."[4]

---

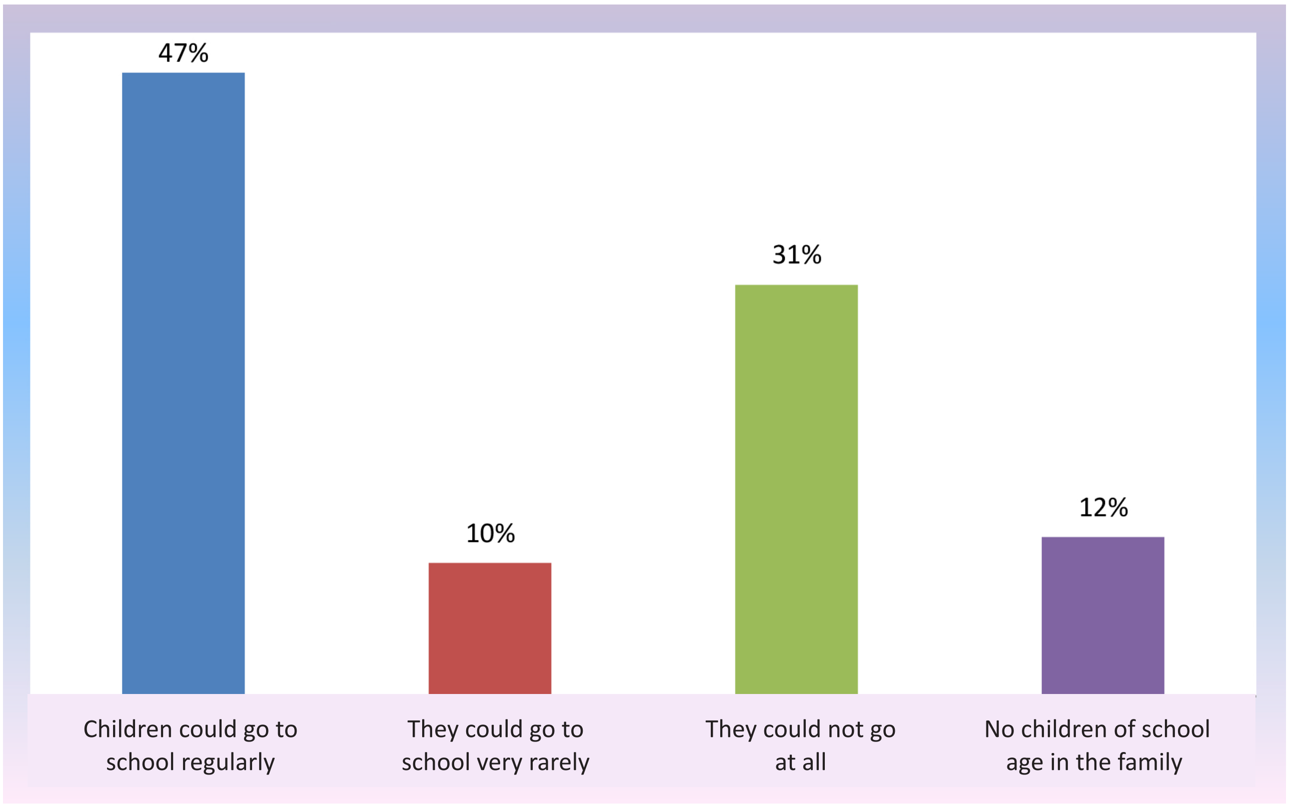
[3] Idil, 55 years old.
[4] Cizre, 52 years old.

Chart 10 **Average number of people in the household**



The average household size of the participants is 6 people. 67% of participants have more than 6 members. 32% of the participants have 5 or less members in their households.

Chart 11 **Frequency of school attendance by children during the blockade**



47% of the participants stated that their children could go to school regularly before migration; 31% of children were not able to go to school; 10% of children could go to school rarely.

"During the curfews, I was in the 11th grade, I could not go to school regularly, I could not even buy school supplies. When I continued going to school in the second semester, most of the teachers were gone. The teachers who were at the school had some difficulties related to the curfews."[5]

"Government was striking from one side; the PKK from another. Nobody could pass by that road, everyone was running away. When we went to school, there were only 3-4 students. And then they told us at school that there was a conflict and they were sending us back home. We hardly studied that year (while we were in the 11th grade). The 12th grade was not productive, yet we finished school and graduated. Normally we should have started to study for the LYS exam, the 11th grade is the strictest. We were wondering, "Who will be killed? How many people will get hurt?" We were talking about this kind of things. Normally there would be 3,500 students in our school but in that period there were just 2-3 students in each class, 5 at most. We would have 3 classes at most, after which they would send us home. We could not think about the exam at that time. It was a really a bad period."[6]

---

[5] Şirnak, age 21.

……

"All of our children quit school, they could not get in to a university… They do not go to school."[7]

……

"My daughter liked going to school very much. After the curfew she did not go to school anymore. Even now, they start crying whenever they hear voices. They think it will be a curfew again."[8]

……

"I could not go out for three months, we stayed in the basement together with seven other families, hungry and thirsty. There were many sick people. We could neither go to a hospital, nor get medicine. We could not go outside; the state did not treat us as humans, so we do not recognize the state. I do not go to school anymore, I quit, I do not want to."[9]

……

"During the war we could go to school somehow until the announcement came out. We had only three hours after the announcement, without being able to pick up our stuff, we went to the Nur neighborhood of Cizre. We did not go to school for a year. Now we are 9 siblings, going to school is very difficult for us. My father is self-employed, he does not have a regular job. This situation affects us psychologically."[10]

……

"They destroyed schools; children could not go to school. They did not allow us to go to the hospital."[11]

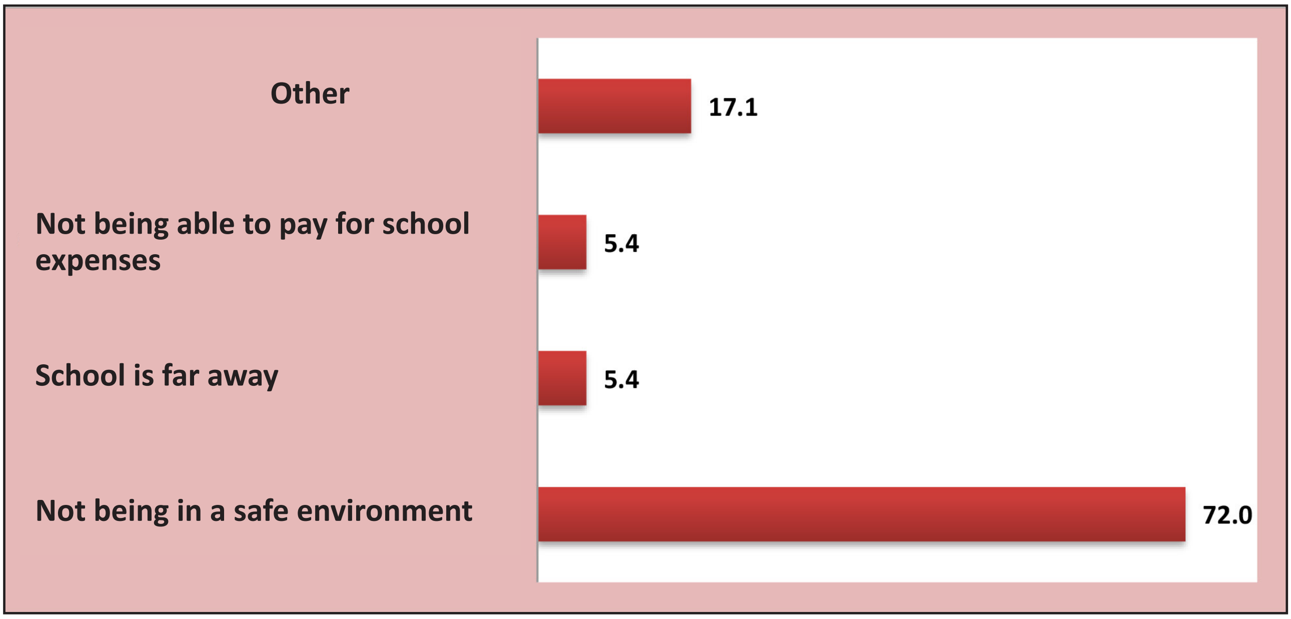
……

"Before the curfew my 3 children were attending school. During the curfew they could not go to school. We sent them outside (to Van) to a school there. We did not allow them to interrupt their education. They also did not want to stay behind at school. We sent them to a school in Van… The head of the school did not create any problems for children. She knew about the curfew in Yüksekova and she registered them as guest pupils."[12]

---

[6] Şirnak, age 20.
[7] Nusaybin, age 55.
[8] Cizre, age
[9] Cizre, age 18.
[10] Şirnak, age 19.
[11] Hakkri, age 80.
[12] Hakkari, age 40.

Chart 12 **Information about education status of children during the conflicts**



Out of 404 families that could not send their children to school, 72% of families stated as a reason not having a secure environment during and after the curfews. The schools in the provinces and city districts where conflicts took place were used as military quarters during the curfews. Even after the curfews some military vehicles were still present in schools that had been reopened. This situation caused a high level of uneasiness according to reports. Many students did not want to continue attending school because of the losses and pressures from various groups that they had experienced during the conflicts. Education was perceived as meaningless, in particular by children who had lost their relatives or friends during the curfews period.

Families and children who were forced to migrate encountered discriminatory and exclusionist attitudes in places where they moved. Children of families who went through forced migration faced discriminatory attitudes particularly at school. Due to the feelings of insecurity created by this situation, families did not want to send their children to school, while students did not have desire to continue education.

“As if our past experiences had been not enough— we were discriminated against in the new place, In Mersin, where we had migrated, we were in a district with the majority of people supporting the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). Students would say to us, “Terrorists who speak Kurdish have no business in our school.” My children were blacklisted there and marginalized by other children. I thought it would be better for my children if they continued to study but I did not known that it would be like this. They lost their interest. They were not allowed to use their mother tongue. We had to come back, we just could not manage it there.”[13]

---

[13] Cizre, age 36.

“My children and I were discriminated by the school principal where we had migrated. The principal asked us where we had come from. When we answered, “From Cizre,” he said, “Why did you allow them to enter, those terrorists… It was all your fault… If you had not let those terrorists enter, you would not be here…” “We did not let in anybody,” I answered. He said then with contempt, “Do not tell me stories…” I started crying… I explained the situation to my children’s teachers; they said, they would help if I sued. But against whom would we open a lawsuit and to whom?”[14]

“When the war first started here, they turned schools into their headquarters; then, they destroyed them.”[15]

“My children think that studying is meaningless when they think of their friends who had been killed. They say they will be killed too, in any case.”[16]

“I will never forget fear in my children’s eyes. My older daughter had a panic attack, even now she feels uneasy when she hears any kind of noise... That’s why she quit school.”[17]

“They killed my son’s friend in front of our eyes. They told us to go to school, but they were shooting at us. That’s why my children could not finish school.”[18]

“They killed my mother. After these events, I quit because I did not want to study in a state school. I do not have any plans for future. I only think of my siblings.”[19]

“The state did not treat us as human beings, we do not recognize the state… I no longer go to school, I quit, I did not want to!”[20]

“I faced a lot of discrimination in the place where I had migrated to, I was marginalized. First of all, it was a big shock to me to witness the traumas that my children went through. My children were blacklisted, other children called them 'terrorists.' I will never forget that my children had difficulties at school just because of their Kurdish names."[21]

---

[14] Cizre, age 31.
[15] Idil, age 55.
[16] Diyarbakir (Migrated from Nusaybin).
[17] Cizre, age 35.
[18] Nusaybin, age 55.
[19] During one interview, a 14 year-old girl joined the interview and expressed her opinion about school.
[20] Cizre, age 23.

"They would go to school without problems before the curfew. Then, they stop going because of fear. We did not go to a lawyer, did not sue anyone. The school is not like before, it has been ruined, students are fighting now with each other, they say to my children, "You are not like us."[22]

The Right to Education in Legislation; UNESCO Recommendation

Article V.14 (Particular aspects of learning, training and action) of *Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 18th session, on November 19, 1974, reads as follows: "Education should include critical analysis of the historical and contemporary factors of economic and political nature that underlie contradictions and tensions between countries, together with real impediments to understanding, true international co-operation and the development of world peace."

The right to education has been recognized as a human right regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, origin, political and religious opinion, and age and disability and the right recognizes a right to free compulsory primary education in a number of international conventions.

European Convention on Human Rights in Protocol 1. Article 2 states that no person shall be denied the right to education: "In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religions and philosophical convictions."

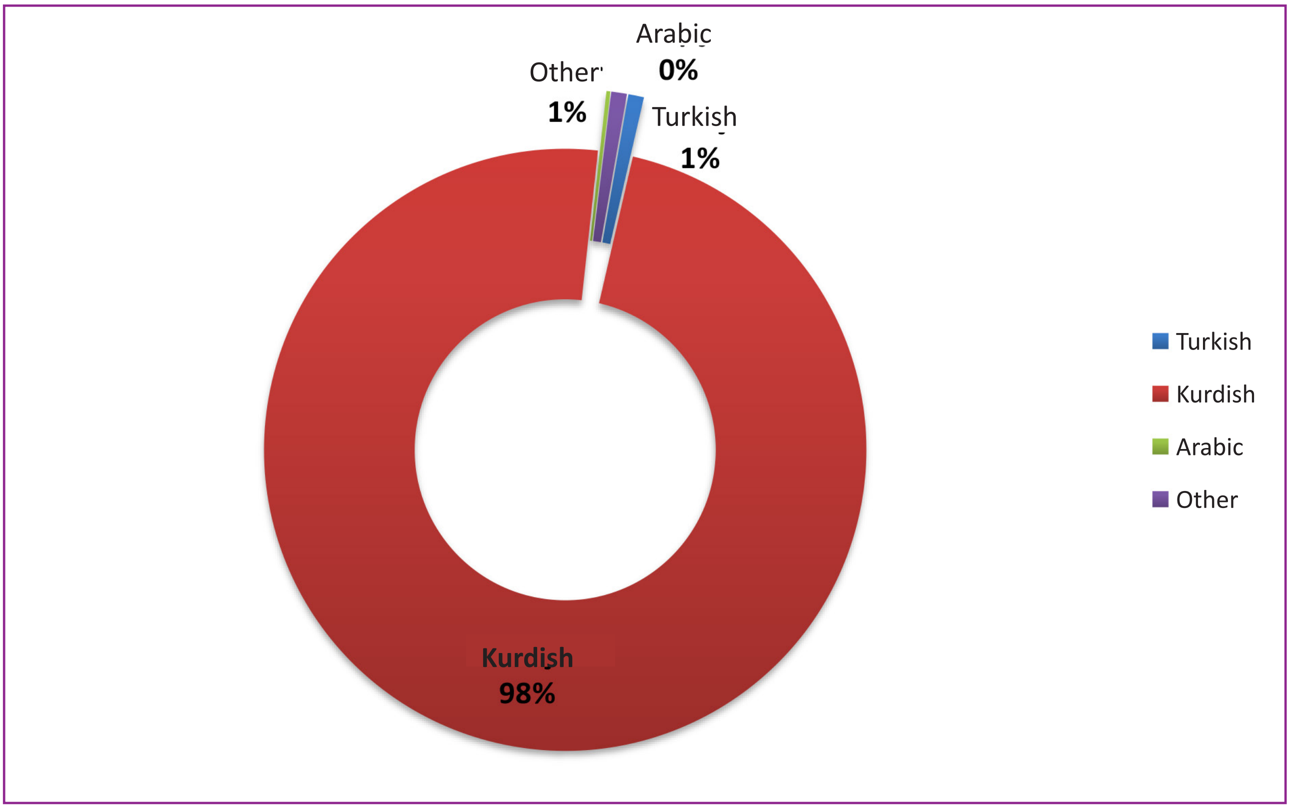
This right is in the constitution of the Republic of Turkey (1982), Article 42: "No one may be deprived of the right of learning and education." According to National Education Basic Right, numbered 1739, Article 7: "Elementary education is the right of every Turkish citizen."

In places where curfews were imposed, children could neither go to school nor take remedial classes. The right to education of children stipulated by all of the above articles was violated.

---

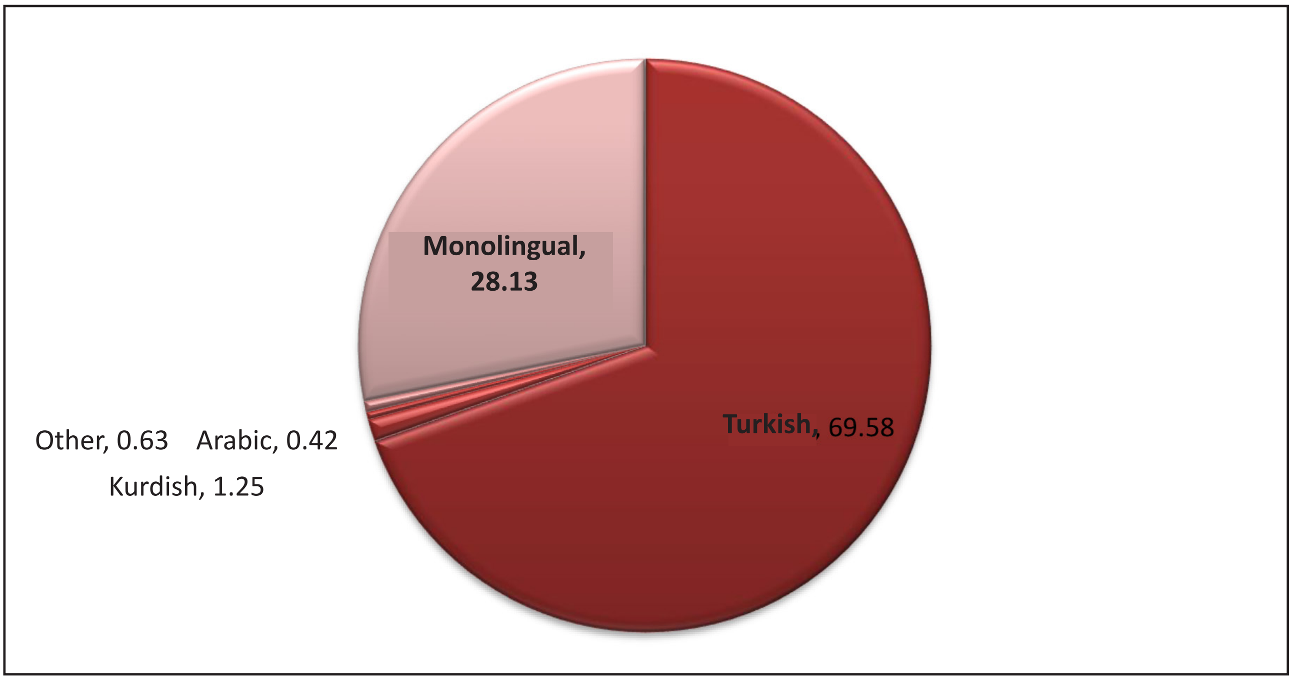
[21] Cizre, age 35.
[22] Idil, age 36.

Chart 13 **Information about participants' mother tongue**



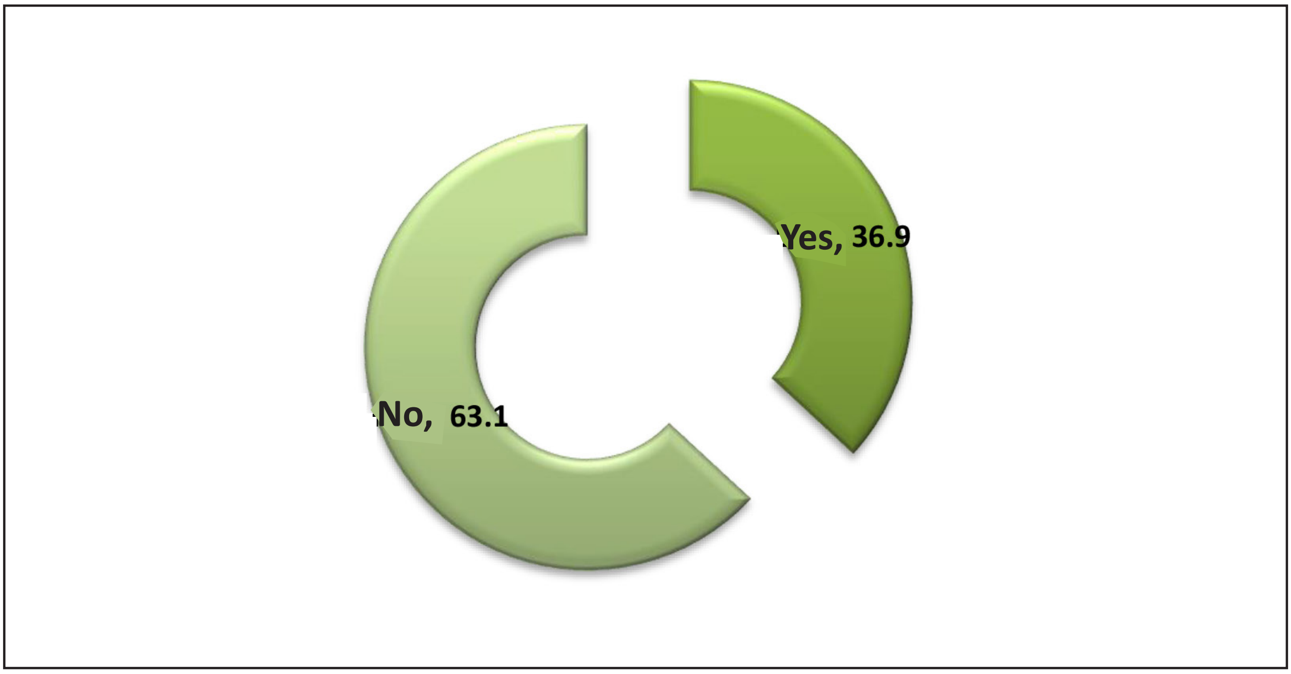
The mother tongue of 98% of the participants is Kurdish.

Chart 14 **Languages known other than mother tongue**



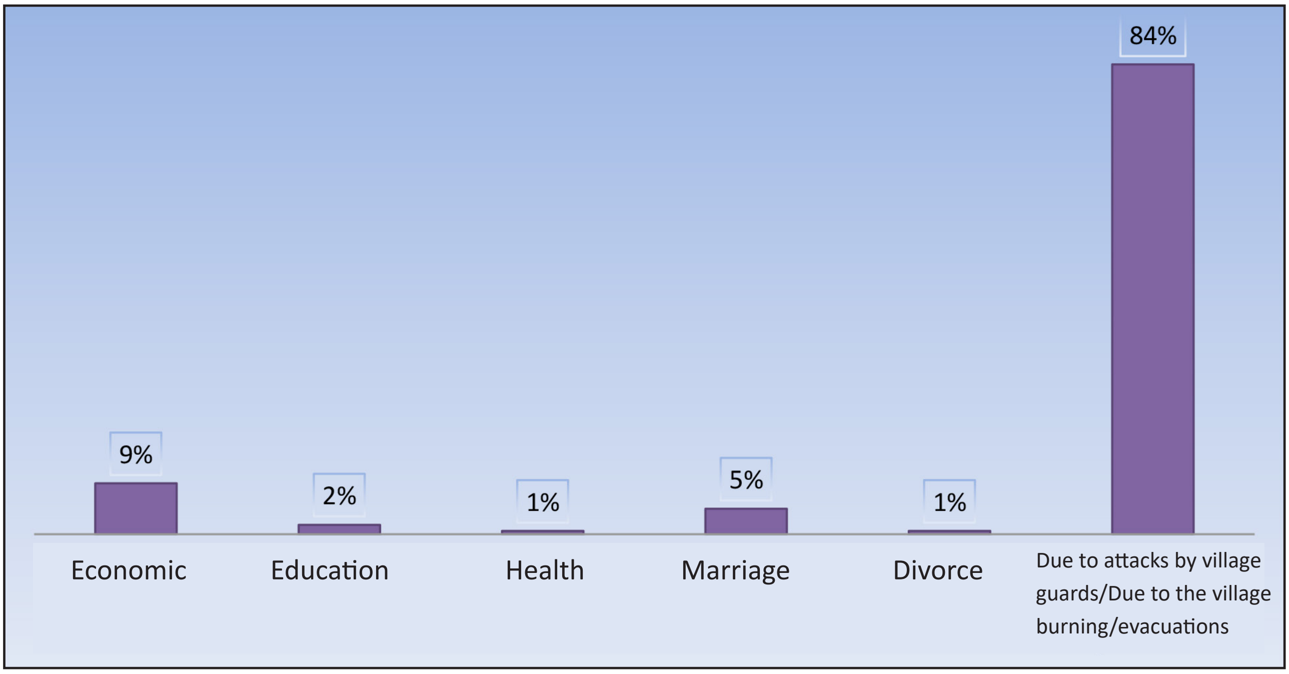
69% of the participants know Turkish language besides their mother tongue; 28% do not know any other language apart their mother tongue.

Chart 15 **Information on whether participants had migrated before 2015**



63% of participants had never migrated before; 37% had migrated before

Chart 16 **Causes of Migration**



84% of the participants who had migrated before were forced to do it because of attacks by village guards (Village Guard System are paramilitaries recruited mostly from ethnic Kurds. Originally, they were set up and funded by the Turkish state in the mid-1980s. Their stated purpose was to act as a local militia in towns and villages, protecting against attacks and reprisals from the insurgents of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]) and/or village burning /evacuations in the 1990s.[23]

"In the 90s, as our village was evacuated, they were bombing us. They burned our house. We were scared and we went to Syria. Our house was burned in Syria too and we had to return to Turkey. We were not citizens there, they did not give us identity cards. We came here, we thought we might have a better life, but it is the same here. It was very very difficult, nobody can imagine what we have lived through."[24]

……

"We migrated in the 1990s. They burned our village and bombed the surroundings. We had to leave our village. It had been several years since we came here, but as you can see, we are in a war situation again. They destroyed our house."[25]

---

[23] For more information: https://gockutuphanesi.wordpress.com
[24] Nusaybin, age 36-49.
[25] Idil, age 55.

4.2. The Curfews Period

From August 16, 2015, when the first curfew was declared in the Varto district of the province of Muş, till March 1, 2018, at least 299 curfews were officially declared in 11 provinces and in 49 districts: Diyarbakir (169 times), Mardin (48 times), Hakkâri (23 times), Şirnak (13 times), Bitlis (14 times), Muş (7 times), Bingöl (7 times), Dersim (6 times), Batman (6 times), Elaziğ (2 times) and Siirt (4 times).

The following are the dates and length of the longest curfews imposed during the 2015-2016 period in the provinces where this study was conducted.

Sur (a city district of Diyarbakir):

In 2015, the first curfew was declared on September 6-7. Next curfews were imposed on September 13-14 and on October 10-13. The 4th curfew was declared on November 28-30. The 5th and 6th curfews began on December 2. After this curfew was temporarily lifted on December 10, it was restarted on December 11 and continued around the clock for 103 days.

Cizre:

The first curfew was declared on September 4, 2015 and continued for 8 days until September 12. The second curfew that lasted one day was declared on September 13. The third curfew was declared on November 14-15 and the fourth one on November 24-25. The fifth curfew was declared on December 14 and continued around the clock for 79 days.

Silopi:

The first curfew was imposed around the clock for 3 days between October 7 and October 9, 2015. The curfew that was declared on the same day as in Cizre—December 14, 2015—continued in Silopi around the clock for 37 days.

Şirnak:

The curfew declared on March 14, 2016 continued for 8 months.

Idil:

The curfew that was imposed on February 16, 2016 at 11:00 pm continued around the clock for 44 days.

Nusaybin, a district of Mardin:

The curfews were declared 7 times between October 2015 and March 2016. The 8th curfew was imposed on March 14, 2016 and continued around the clock for 134 days.

Yüksekova:

4 curfews were declared for short time periods after July, 2015. The curfew declared on March 13, 2016 continued around the clock for 79 days.

Authorization to Declare Curfews

The curfews were announced by provincial governors on the basis of "Article 11 / C of the Provincial Administration Law no. 5442".

According to Article 13 of Turkey's Constitution, basic rights and freedoms should be clearly stated in the Constitution and laws. Article 11 of the Provincial Administration Law No. 5442 does not grant authority to a provincial governor to declare a curfew. There is no such provision in the law. The state's obligations continue even in the case of state of emergency or martial law. Since measures to be taken during the period of "non-stop curfews," which lasted for days, were not considered, it became a process that caused various rights violations. Violations that took place during these "non-stop curfews," which lasted for days, weeks, and months, have reached dimensions that are difficult even to imagine. The performance by the government of such unlawful actions through the authority of provincial and district governors is seen as a means to avoid liability under Article 15 of the ECHR.[26]

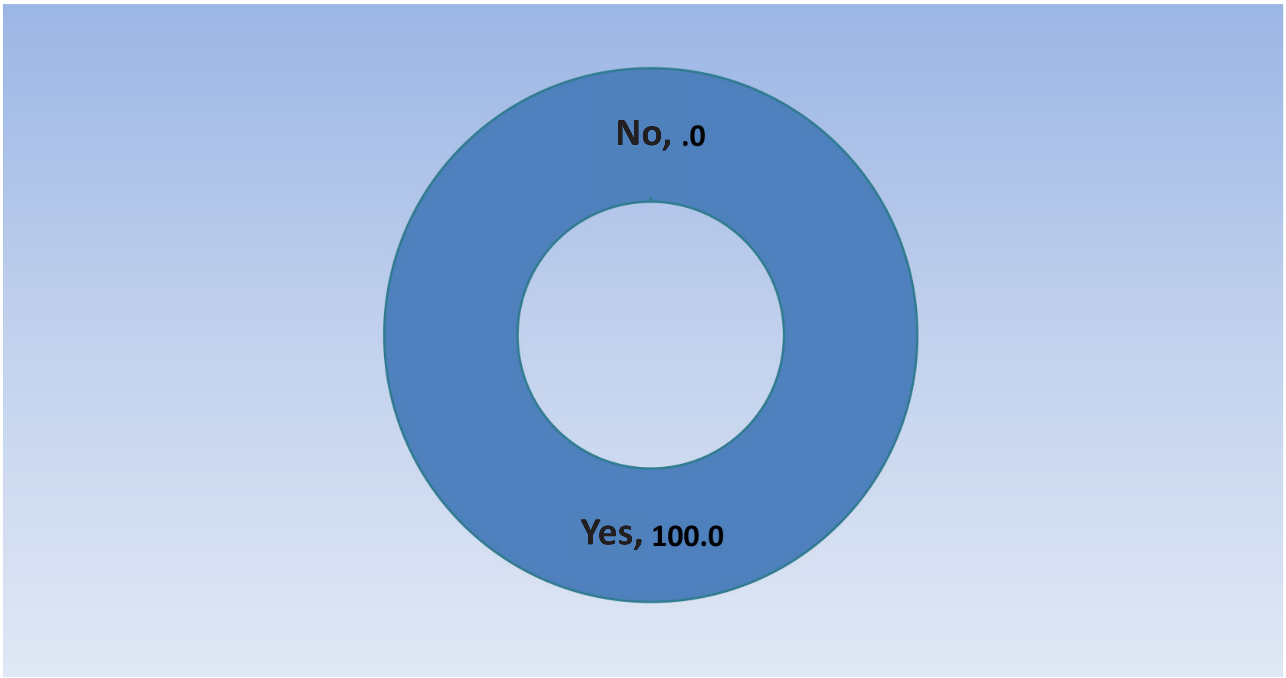
According to the experience of the Human Rights Commissioner of Council of Europe, Nils Muižnieks, the curfews in the region and events experienced by people are unique. Such practices cannot be found in ECHR case law. The Commissioner stated in his report that it was difficult to envisage a more severe practice than this kind of curfew. The Commissioner therefore expressed an opinion that the curfews had likely affected all of the rights listed by the Venice Commission.[27]

---

[26] Report on Cizre Curfews by Diyarbakir BARO, Gundem Children Association, IHD, SES, TIHV. 03.31.2016

[27] The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Nils Muiznieks, Memorandum on the Human Rights Implications of Anti-Terrorism Operations in South-Eastern Turkey, 7. https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2952754&SeMode=1&DocId=2393076&Usage=2

Chart **17 Was a curfew declared in 2015-2016 in the place where you lived?**



All of 480 participants who participated in survey were under the curfews in 2015-2016.

"Our house was destroyed. We were there during the curfew. We did not know any place where we could go. The police came and told us to go out. They said, "Why don't you go out?" We answered, "Where will we go? We do not know any place." They said, "How will you live here, under this bombardment, under these circumstances?" My children could not sleep at night because of fear, they would stay awake until morning. Our clothes were always ready, we slept in our clothes to be ready if something happened. It was really really hard. During the curfew it was even worse. We were in a very bad situation in Syria, we came here and were suffering again. My husband was a lawyer, but that did not change anything. The Turkish government did the same thing to us as the Syrian government."[28]

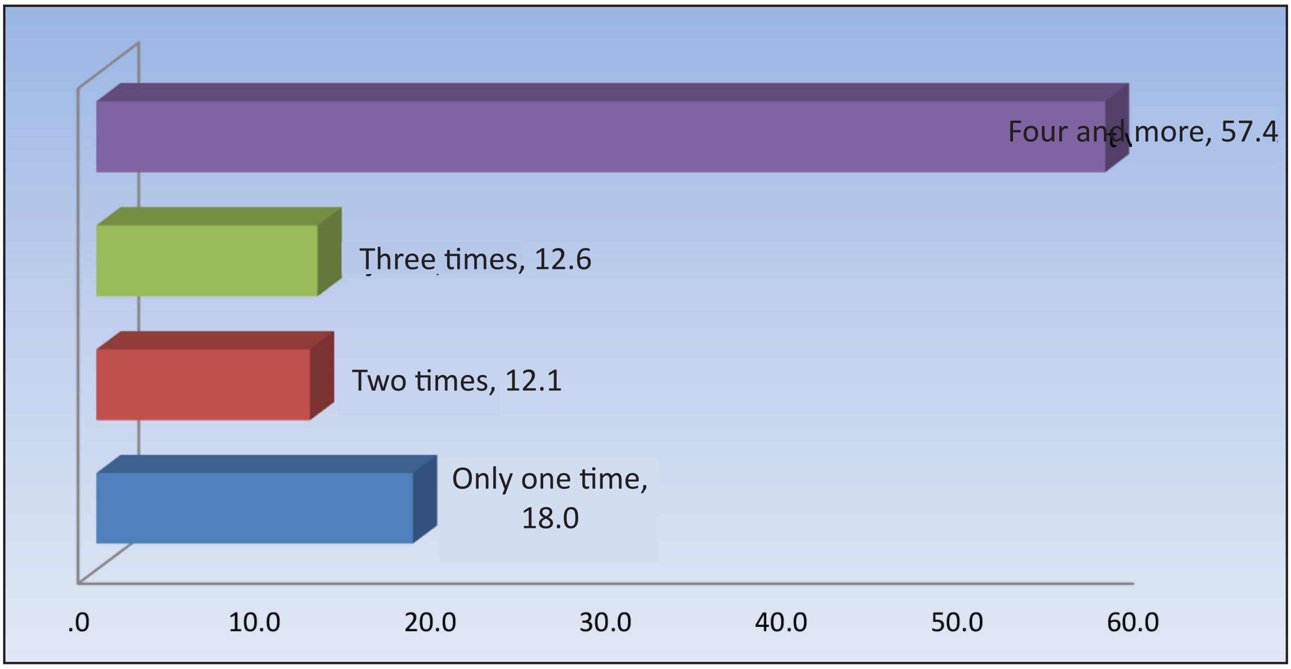
"We could not go out and we could not stay at home. My relatives did not want me when I went to their place, they were also preparing themselves for a curfew, I could not understand it."[29]

"We were not living in this house, our house was in a different neighborhood, they destroyed our house. They declared curfew twice. It lasted for 3-4 months. We did not have electricity. They bombed water pipes."[30]

---

[28] Nusaybin, age 36-49.
[29] Cizre, age 24.
[30] Idil, age 55.

Chart 18 **Information about the number of curfews**



57% of the participants had 4 and more curfews where they resided; 18% had curfew once; 12% had curfews 2 or 3 times.

"One time we stayed for 5 days, another time for 14 days there, then we went to a different place but there were conflicts too there. While we were staying there, the conflicts were very intense, our children were afraid and were crying all the time. We could not stand it towards the end and had to go to a village. We knew if we went out, we would not be able to return to our house."[31]

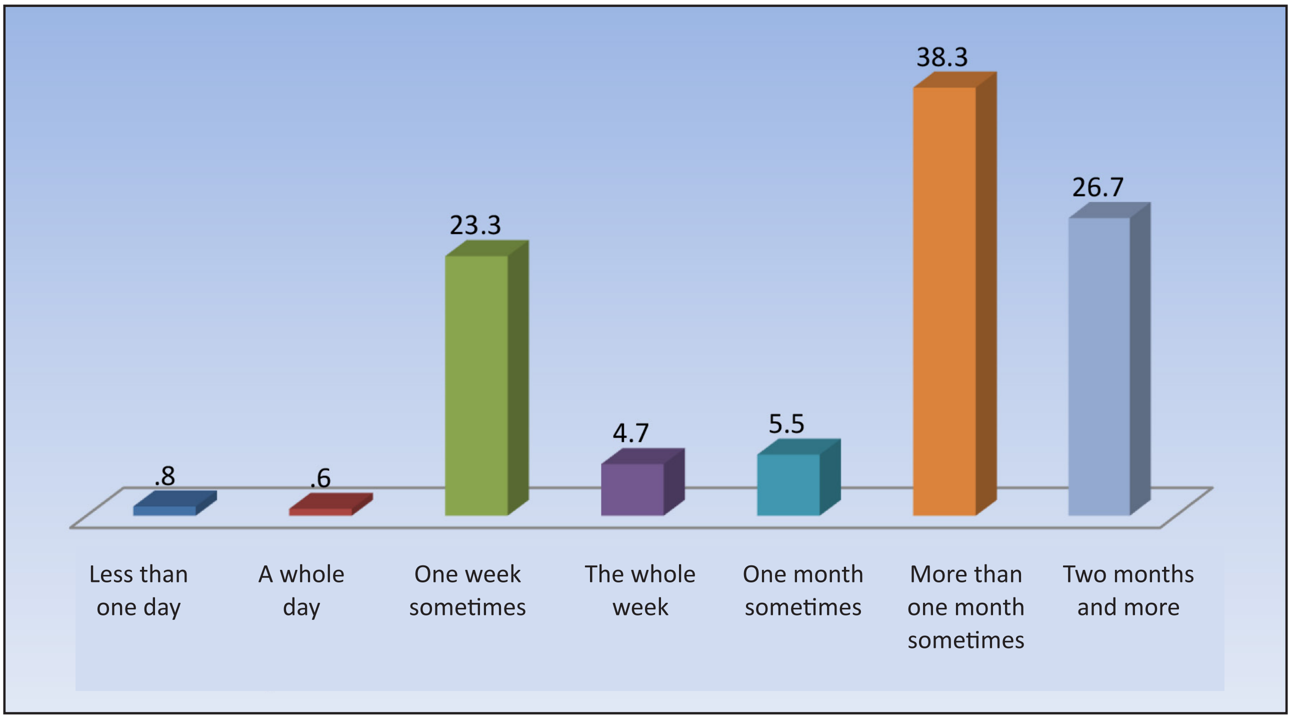
"We could not get out for 5 months … the curfew was declared 3 times and we could not get out ."[32]

"The curfew was declared, and we ran away … they burned our house"[33]

---

[31] Nusaybin, age 50-64?
[32] Idil, yaş 36.
[33] Idil, yaş 55.

Chart 19 **How long did the curfews last?**



There were curfews that lasted from 1 day to over 2 months. 27% of the participants were exposed to curfews that lasted for over 2 months and more. 38% of the participants stated that they were exposed to curfews for one month and more; 35% —for one month and less. Curfews have been declared more than once in the areas where this research was carried out (not including the cities that received migrants). All of the participants were affected by the curfews. There were non-stop curfews in all of the cities in this study for 30 or more than 30 days. 35% of the participants indicated that they were exposed to curfews for less than 30 days. It can be estimated that these 35% had migrated from their places of residence before the curfews that lasted for more than one month were implemented. It can be estimated that 38% of the population was forced to migrate within a period of one to two months after a curfew. In addition, 27% of the surveyed population were subjected to continuous curfews for 2 months and longer without access to basic needs such as water, electricity and food. Some of the participants found given options in this survey inadequate and angrily stated that an option should be added “It continued non-stop, day and night, for 3 months.”

“We were not ready for a nine-day curfew, we did not know how many days it would last. In the beginning, I could not communicate with my daughter, we were able to talk just once. She said, I did not die but my son can die. I was in such despair at that moment. During the three-month curfew, the police would go up to our roof every day, knock on the door and ask for food. We did not have any regular food by that time, but we shared with them what we had.”[34]

……

“They killed many people especially during the 14-days curfew. After each curfew we would go to a funeral.”[35]

……

“The curfew was declared twice, they lasted for 3-4 months. We had no electricity, they bombed water pipes… The last curfew was like an order to destroy homes that were already being destroyed, people were killed, homes were burned. We lost our house, no more people were killed that time, but we too lost many people. Many people were arrested and one of my sons went [to the mountains] after these events. During the curfew we could not visit people to mourn their lost ones so we went to give our condolences after the curfew.[36]

……

“The curfews lasted for more than a month. First Silopi, then Siirt, and then again, the Silopi–Cudi neighborhood… As a woman, I have some special days, and therefore some special needs. On certain days, you lose your interest, become more sensitive, you become a cold person and go far from everything. From one place to another… that period is a very bad period; and if you have a child, it becomes even worse. Your family or relatives would take care of you, they did a great job taking care of us then, but the curfew lasted really long, not one day, not two days… they lasted very long.”[37]

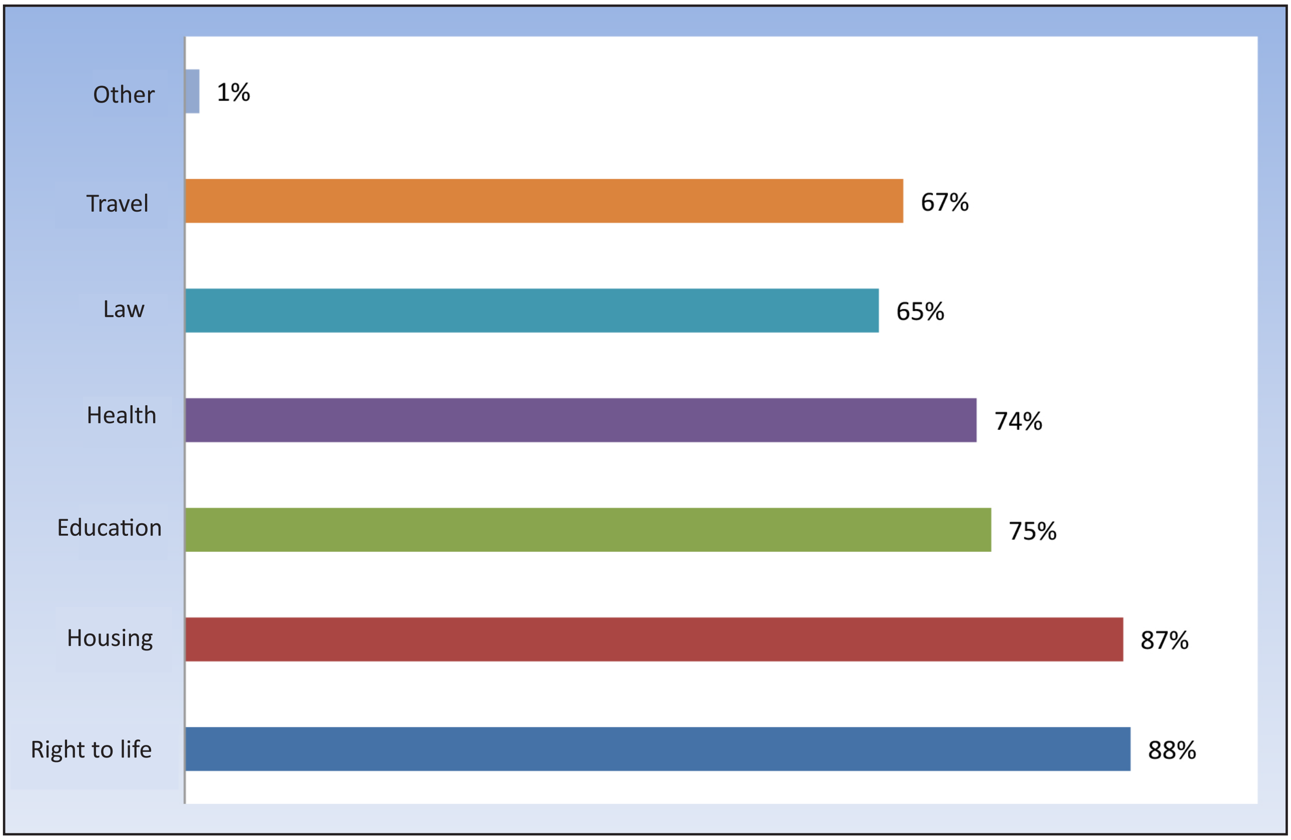
……

“You know only about the curfews, but already before the curfews the situation started to become bad. Electricity was cut off and did not back for a long time, we were sitting in the dark. Up to six months before the curfews. When the curfews started, everyone started to become aware of the situation.[38]

---

[34] Cizre, age?
[35] Nusaybin, age?
[36] Idil, age 55.
[37] Silopi, age?
[38] Şirnak, age 20.

Chart 20 **Violations of basic human rights that occurred during the curfews and blockades**



The participants experienced violations of more than half of the basic human rights during the blockades. The rights violated the most are examined here: the right to life, the right to housing, the right to access to education and health services were mentioned most often.[39] 87% of the participants reported violations of the right to shelter and 88%—of the right to life.

"The right to life", one of the fundamental rights in constitutions and international conventions, is untouchable under any circumstances (war, emergency, martial law). Without the protection of the right to life, it is not possible to use and enjoy other rights. The right to life has been advocated and guaranteed in national and international declarations and conventions. All rules that must be observed even during armed conflicts and under war conditions are "guaranteed" in the Geneva Conventions.

In accordance with Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone's right to life is protected by law. This protection draws attention not only to the states' obligation to prevent deliberate termination of life, but also to take necessary steps to protect people's lives within their jurisdictions. Under the same framework, Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees protection of the right to life. Authorities are under a positive obligation to protect the right to life and their duties are to prevent and suppress crimes against people. In such cases, authorities must know if the life of a particular person are in real and imminent danger due to the actions of a third party. The fact that they are or must be aware of such imminent danger and that they have not taken any measures to eliminate this danger in a reasonable manner is a violation of the right to life. Public authority must be aware of violations of the right to life and take necessary measures.[40] However, our participants frequently stated that the right to life was violated in all circumstances and with unacceptable violence. It can be concluded that the right to life, as well as the right to respect for the immunity of property, has been violated at a high rate. Losses experienced or witnessed made even the most serious rights violations experienced by the participants meaningless for them. Some of the participants were observed to feeling shame for being alive. In the face of their relatives' deaths, many participants lost meaning of life; some refuse to ask for treatment despite suffering from serious health problems. It has also been observed that, even though two years have passed, the participants still felt that their basic right to life was in danger. This situation caused difficulties for the implementation of interviews. Due to both the past events and the ongoing oppressions, some interviewees could be interviewed only after trust barrier had been overcome. In general, as it is seen in the quotes from the interviews, the past events are still in the participants' memory; they have difficulties to adapt in their lives.

---

[39] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

TIHK demands reopening of peace process

Turkey's Human Rights Association (TİHK) visited Diyarbakir on December 24-25 and reported their observations as follows:

"It is known that the trenches, barricades, curfews and armed conflicts that took place in Diyarbakır and surrounding cities caused many human rights violations. There are claims of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular the right to life."

While public institutions stated that the damage suffered by the citizens had been eliminated, that efforts had been made to prevent grievances and that authorities avoided causing violations of human rights, grievances experienced due to the ongoing conflicts continue to increase. An increase in grievances can lead to the aggravation of conflicts, making difficult the establishment of peaceful environment and public order.

---

[40] Report of Silvan Incidents, 26 August 2015, and organizations that participated the committee.
Insan Haklari Dernegi (IHD) Diyarbakir Branch
Turkiye Insan Haklari Vakfi (TIHV) Diyarbakir Correspondent
Diyarbakir Barosu
Mezopotamya Hukukcular Dernegi (MHD) Diyarbakir Branch
Diyarbakir Tabip Odasi

What should be done:

* The issue should be evaluated on a macroscale.

* Ditches and barricades should be removed and curfews lifted.

* Other methods should be used than armed conflict, in order to solve ongoing problems.

People who have been exposed to violence and migration find themselves in a spiral of violence and have to migrate again. For this reason, they should not be forced into more poverty in the places where people migrate to; they should be able to exercise their rights, including the right to education. Most importantly, conditions should be created to enable migrants to move back to their homes.

* Human rights violations should be investigated promptly and effectively.

* Effective and comprehensive measures should be taken to eliminate the grievances inflicted so far.

* Use of ways and methods other than armed conflict to solve problems; in this context, the peace process should be restarted from the stage at which it was terminated.

Recommendation of the Ombudsman Institution

The decision in the complaint # 14/06/2016/2015/5756, filed with the Ombudsman Institution in 2016 concerning the applications submitted in regards to human rights violations that took place during the curfews in the provincial centers of Batman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hakkari, Mardin, Muş and Şirnak and some of the city districts, considers how to compensate the damages incurred by people who were forced to migrate due to the conflicts and who experienced violations of human rights, primarily the access to housing and education. Additionally, the decision considers on what grounds in terms of national and international frameworks this complaint is made on.

BY PARTIALLY ACCEPTING AND PARTIALLY DENYING THE COMPLAINT, OMBUDSMAN DECIDED TO,

1. The claim that the curfews declared by civil servants lacks legal bases within the framework of national and international legislation and the request to recommend to the administration to remove curfews is REJECTED;

2. According to the provisions of Articles 11 and 32 of Law No. 5442, curfew decisions taken by civil servants shall be "clearly stated in the relevant articles in accordance with the principles of legal certainty, legal security, predictability and good governance; in respect of making amendments" RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS,

3. When the Ministry of the Interior Affairs prepared a draft on the legislative amendment and submitted to the Prime Ministry for the effective implementation, it was decided to submit an example of the decision to the PRIME MINISTRY for assessment and information. However, it has been observed that the arrangements have not been made in accordance with these recommendations.

"Nobody asks about the situation of poor people like us. I have been in this situation for three years. If you ask me whether anyone helped me, honestly, I did not see anyone on my side. I am only a piece of dust in this world, I neither can go outside nor do I have anyone near me. When I go outside, I see their traces everywhere; where they sit, where they joke with each other, where they have their weddings. In this world everything became darkness for me. That is to say I hate myself. I ask why I am still alive. I mean, being dead is better than this situation… I have a psychological disorder, but I refused treatment. They took me to a doctor, they gave me medicine, but when I arrived home I burnt all of the medicine. I do not know what I should do. I look at the world and think that some people do not know anything about this wheel of fortune.[41]

……

"When my children and I had to leave Cizre, we were in danger. We were fleeing, 2 people fell down in front of our eyes, I do not know if they are still alive or not. After we moved to a different place, I could not stop thinking about those 2 people. I was thinking about Cizre… As I was about to comb my hair, I thought to myself, "You left them there, how can you comb your hair now!" I quickly found scissors and cut my hair as short as I could."[42]

……

"Even though I had a surgery, they attacked me and my family, nobody helped us. Even now when we hear voices, we get scared and cannot do anything, cannot sleep at night. My son told me, "I will not visit you here, as long as you stay in this neighborhood." He wants us to move. He said, "You are living in the place where we lost two of my brothers, I cannot come to this home.” He has not been home for two years. When we lost the first one, my other son was always talking about him. Later he too was wounded, but it was not serious. He told me, “Mom, do not take me to the hospital, if you take me there, they will kill me.” How was I supposed to know? We took him there and they killed him. This is my greatest regret … (Crying).”[43]

---

[41] Cizre, age 44.

[42] Cizre, age 35.

……

“We were at home. We got the news, a friend of my brother got hurt, “Run, come here!” When I got there with my father, we realized that it was my brother. We all hugged him. Somehow, we took him to the hospital. He stayed there for 22 days. He died in the hospital, but we could not get his dead body. These were very hard days… We still cannot believe how this happened.”[44]

……

“We were persecuted, it was a genocide, it was very wild. I do not know how to explain you in words. I didn’t get married in order to take care of my mother and father, and to make them happy… Just imagine some barbarian, wild men, screaming “horse, woman and gun” come and hurt your parents and kill you. Would not you be offended? My father had dialysis and we could not take him to the hospital, he was getting worse and worse. When I remember those days, I get crazy, I only remember bombs and tanks of those barbarians.”

……

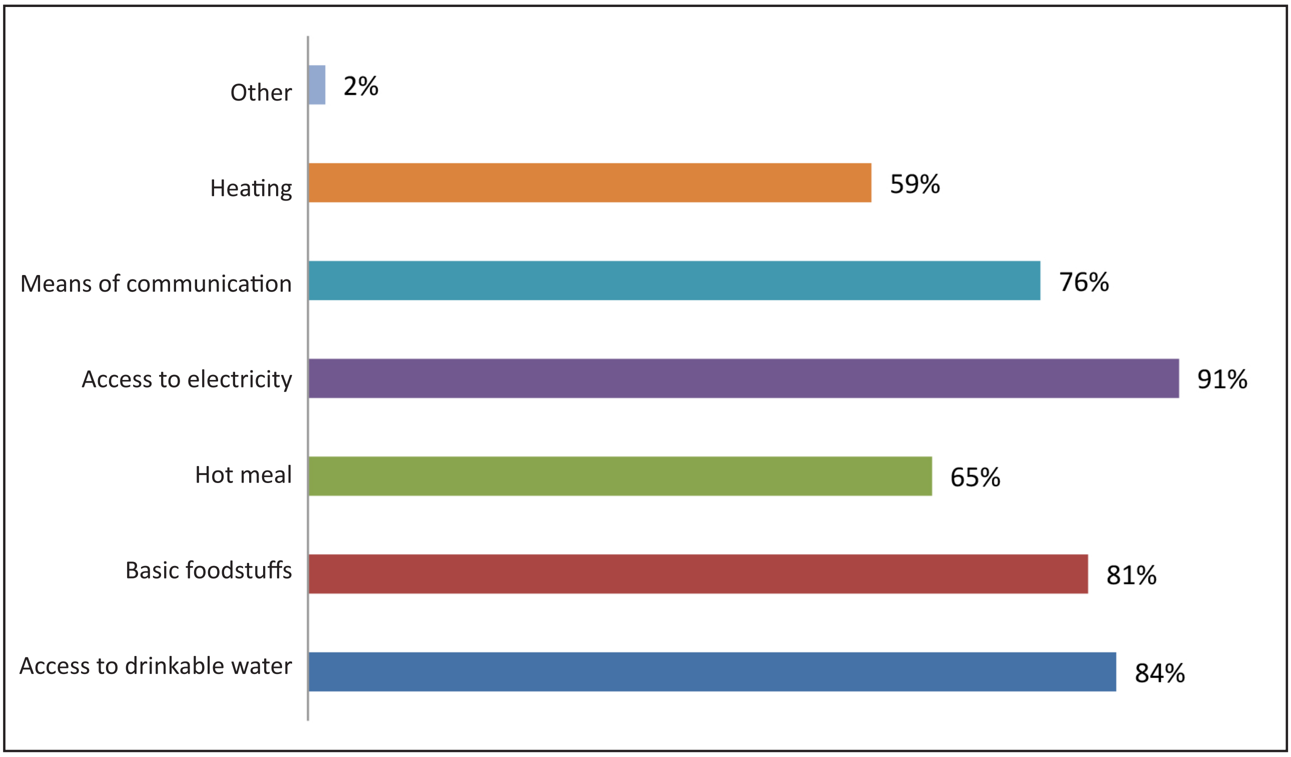
“What affected me most during the blockade was the situation of my twin sister-in-laws. One of them got injured while in the garden. Apart from stopping the bleeding, there was nothing we could do. We witnessed her day by day as she was dying in front of our eyes. I thought to myself “God must have forgotten us here.”

---

[43] Cizre, age 36-49.

[44] Cizre, age 25.

Chart 21 **Basic needs that were difficult to meet during the curfews and blockades**



The rate of reported difficulties accessing basic needs during the curfews and blockades was high. Difficulties accessing electricity, drinking water and basic foodstuffs were reported by over 80% of the participants. Most people said that they had experienced all of the violations mentioned in the questionnaire and that they could not access anything ("there was nothing"). [45]

Cutting-off electricity and telephone lines prevented the flow of information about the conditions on the ground out of the cities. During that period, people were deprived of all basic life necessities such as water, electricity, garbage removal, health, education and baby food. The lack of access to water, electricity, ambulance and health services affected public health system and caused deaths.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has documented numerous cases of excessive use of force, murder, forced disappearance, torture, destruction of houses and cultural life, incitement to hatred, prevention of access to emergency medical services, food, water and livelihood; violence against women, serious restrictions on freedom of thought and expression as well as on the right to political participation. It was reported that the most serious violations of human rights occurred during the period of curfew. In this period, the connection of some settlements with the world was completely cut off and mobility was restricted non-stop for days, both day and night.[46]

---

45 Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

46 The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the report on the Human Rights in Southeastern Turkey, July 2015-December 2016.

“We are hungry and have been on the street for 12 days. I am old, they vandalized my house. What will I do now? I have no strength. We do not stay in my house because of fear ...There is neither electricity nor water in the house. They shoot at us, how can we stay there? What have we done? Soldiers of the government broke the doors of my house and damaged my house. Leave the rest to God!”[47]

……

“Conflicts took place behind our house, we did not go out but we could hear the sounds of the conflict, we did not look through the window out of fear. We had a very hard time, sometimes I could not make food for 4-5 days. My little child was hungry, I did not know how to cook. There was no electricity, water, how could I make food!”[48]

……

“I do not have any strength to tell you about those days. I have nothing left. My psychological condition is unbelievable ….I saw my child going hungry for 3 days. I had a miscarriage.. These examples are the most important ones. I remember we were crying because of thirst. In addition to cannons and tanks, they were harassing us with their announcements via microphone… Human beings would not do something like that”[49]

……

“We did not lose electricity during the curfews. We could not understand why. Therefore, we had better conditions than our neighbors to meet our basic needs. We used water from a well to drink. At first, we did not know how long curfews would last. We thought this would be just like other things that the state does. I did not know that they would take my Cemile from me.”[50]

---

[47] ?.

[48] Nusaybin, age: 50-64.

[49] Cizre, yaş?

[50] Cizre, yaş 55.

Chart 22 **Cross-table of basic needs which were difficult to meet during and after the curfews**

	Access to drinkable water	Basic foodstuffs	Hot meal	Access to electricity	Means of communication	Heating
Less than one day	100%	50%	50%	100%	100%	25%
The whole day	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	33%
One week sometimes	75%	83%	80%	87%	74%	57%
The whole week	85%	88%	76%	97%	85%	74%
One month sometimes	89%	77%	63%	94%	66%	69%
More than one month sometimes	86%	77%	48%	89%	71%	47%
Two months and more	91%	89%	79%	97%	91%	76%

Considering varied duration of the curfews and blockades, there was no significant difference in the list of the basic needs that were the most difficult to access. However, the longer the blockade lasted, the more people started developing survival strategies despite their limited resources. Alternatively, basic needs lost their importance in view of other, heavier losses and damages.

The clashes in 2015-2016 have intensified during the periods of curfew. The horrific events witnessed by the participants during this period trivialized such essential needs as food, electricity and water. It was observed that the participants were feeling shame and avoided talking about basic needs, as they compared them with non-pecuniary losses they had experienced. It was also observed in all areas where this research was conducted, people whose houses experienced less damage or who experienced less distress, were feeling shame.

“Oo God, I am not satisfied that my home has remained intact. Because our neighbors lost everything. While I had an opportunity to sleep on my pillow, my neighbors could not find even a piece of land to sleep on it. Honestly, my home was not destroyed but I am not happy with that[51]”

---

[51] Yuksekova, age 26.

“There are more important issues in the neighborhood than water, electricity and roads, to talk about.”[52]

“Hunger and lack of water did not affect me; their announcements, their insults affected me a lot.”

“During the blockade I stayed at home. I was stubborn, I said, “I will not go, I will not leave this place.” I said, “My land is my honor, I will resist until the very end and I will celebrate the victory of my resistance.” Sometimes attacks were so severe that we were biting our hands. We were putting cotton in our ears. We were singing with a loud voice in order to protect our children. But I do not want to tell you what we experienced, it will be not fair to freedom fighters.”

“We were running out of provisions, we could not always help each other with our neighbors who also stayed here. We ate moldy bread. For several days, we stayed hungry. After that we decided to go outside and buy something to eat, thinking that we would die otherwise. That time, they shot at us. We were going to either die from hunger or remain alive somehow.”[53]

“We could not go out during the curfew. We stayed in the basement for 3 months. We were 7 families, we all were hungry and thirsty. There were a lot of sick people among us. We could not go to the hospital, we could not buy medicine, we could not go outside.”[54]

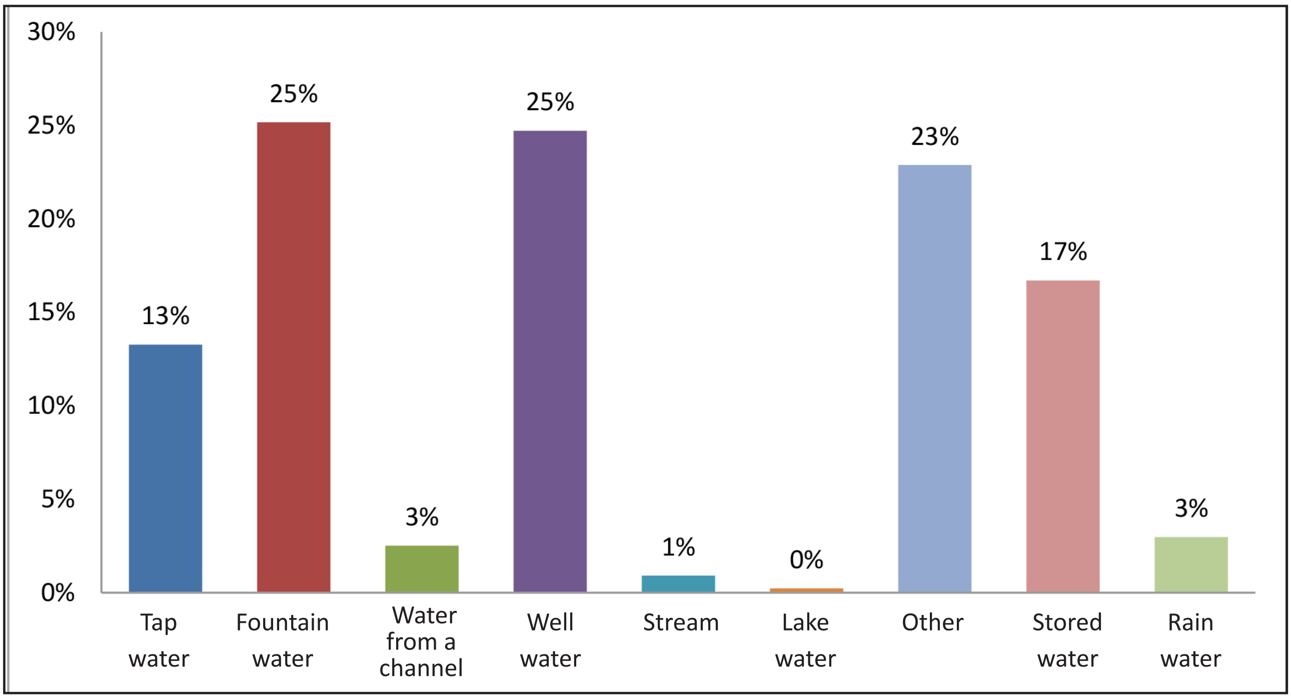
“My husband and I took refuge in the basement. We could hear noise from outside. We could not go anywhere because my husband was disabled. We stayed there for a while. After that we ran out of provisions. Then, we ran out of water. I would go out and try to find some water, but I couldn’t go out. Everywhere was dark and bombs were heard. I slowly went to our neighbor’s house. They also had little water left but they gave me some. So I brought some water back. My husband was crying. I gave him some water with a napkin. I wanted to die at that moment.”[55]

“When we were making bread a smoke came out, so we could not finish. We could not do anything because of the sound of bombs, we were very miserable.”[56]

---

[52] Cizre, age 35.
[53] Cizre, age 30
[54] Cizre, age 23.
[55] Cizre, age 67.
[56] Idil, age 55.

Chart 23 **How did people provide for their water needs?**



The participants stated that, during the blockade, they satisfied their needs of drinking water in the following ways: 25% from faucet; 25% from wells; 17% from water storage, 12% from tap; 3% from rain. The participants who indicated the option "Other" stated that they frequently met their needs using water from swimming pools, water tanks, snow water, bottled water and stored tap water.[57] The participants had great difficulty accessing water, especially clean water, and had to find ways to overcome this difficulty. Previous field studies also found that people had great difficulties accessing water during the curfew periods. Even though many options have been added to the questionnaire related to the access to water, the option "Other" has had a high rate of 23%.

It was established that violations experienced in this period were unpredictable and varied throughout the cities. Participants first stated that water resources were targeted and that they did not have access to water for days. They stated that they were trying to gain access to water in any way they could, by using snow water, rain water, channel water, tap water, water from tans. However, it is known that water which is not designated as drinking contains hundreds of microorganisms and may cause many infectious diseases. Some of these diseases are diarrhea, cholera, hepatitis, typhoid and paratypes, malaria, trachoma, parasites infections, fungal diseases, and viral infections. If necessary precautions are not taken, these diseases could result in death. In their report on Cizre, Turkish Medical Association indicated the consequences of the lack of access to water as follows:

"The town of Cizre is a place that struggles with problems with safe drinking and utility water even under normal circumstances. The municipality of Cizre provides neighborhoods with water two days a week on a rotating basis. On the days when there is no running water, residents use the water that they had stored in tanks on top of their houses. Due to this water shortage, some households that have wells use personal filtration systems. In Cudi and Nur neighborhoods, which were under blockade, almost all of the water tanks on top of the houses were pierced through as a result of fires. District residents tried to extract water from existing wells, but in some places this option was not available because electricity transformers had been destroyed; in other neighborhoods, due to frequent power outages, electric pumps could not extract water from wells, and filtration process could not have been carried out. Water extracted by pumps is widely used as drinking and utility water. After the visits, most of the physicians stated that cases of diarrhea had increased, especially among children. On the other hand, it was said that a municipality employee who went to open water valves was taken into custody. As a result of an examination of a 2-year-old child who died in Cizre State Hospital, it is suspected that dehydration was the cause of death. It was determined that the absence of garbage collection during that period caused serious hygiene and environmental health problems; there was no healthy living environment. It was determined that throughout the curfews, a large number of animals died, and corpses were stinking on the roads for days."[58]

---

[57] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

Taking into account Article 54 of the *Protocol on the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts*, one of the First Additional Protocols to the 1949 *Geneva Convention on the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict*, and Articles 5 and 14 of the *Second Additional Protocol for the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflict*, It is forbidden to attack, eliminate and render unusable water resources which are indispensable for the life of civilian population. As it is stated rightfully in the doctrine, even in the time of war, prisoners of war are guaranteed the right to water, so it should be guaranteed as a priority in the time of peace.

The right to drinking water, or the right to water, is clearly mentioned in article 14/2 h of *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, adopted by the UN in 1979 and entered into force in 1981, which Turkey was a party to, despite some drawbacks (Harberger, 2005: 347). According to this article, states shall take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women living in rural areas in order to ensure equality between men and women, as well as their participation in the developments in rural areas; they shall recognize the following rights: (...) h) They are especially obliged to ensure that they have "the right to adequate living standards related to housing, health, lighting, drinking water, transportation and communication services."[59]

---

[58] Turkish Medical Association, Cizre Report, 2015.

"I remember we were crying because of thirst."[60]

"I can never forget those times. When we ran out of water, we were drinking water from a channel. It was dirty. Later I had an allergy all over my body. How can I forget that..."[61]

"We were drinking rain water refined with a gauze."[62]

"We could not find anything to eat and drink at home. The police blew up the water tank on our roof. We satisfied our water needs with the water flowing out from the tank."[63]

"Look, this is a plastic bin.. When it was raining, we would drink water that accumulated here. We did not know what to do, we had to do this"[64]

"We would go to the toilet, there was no water. We couldn't even pray. We could not find a piece of bread."[65]

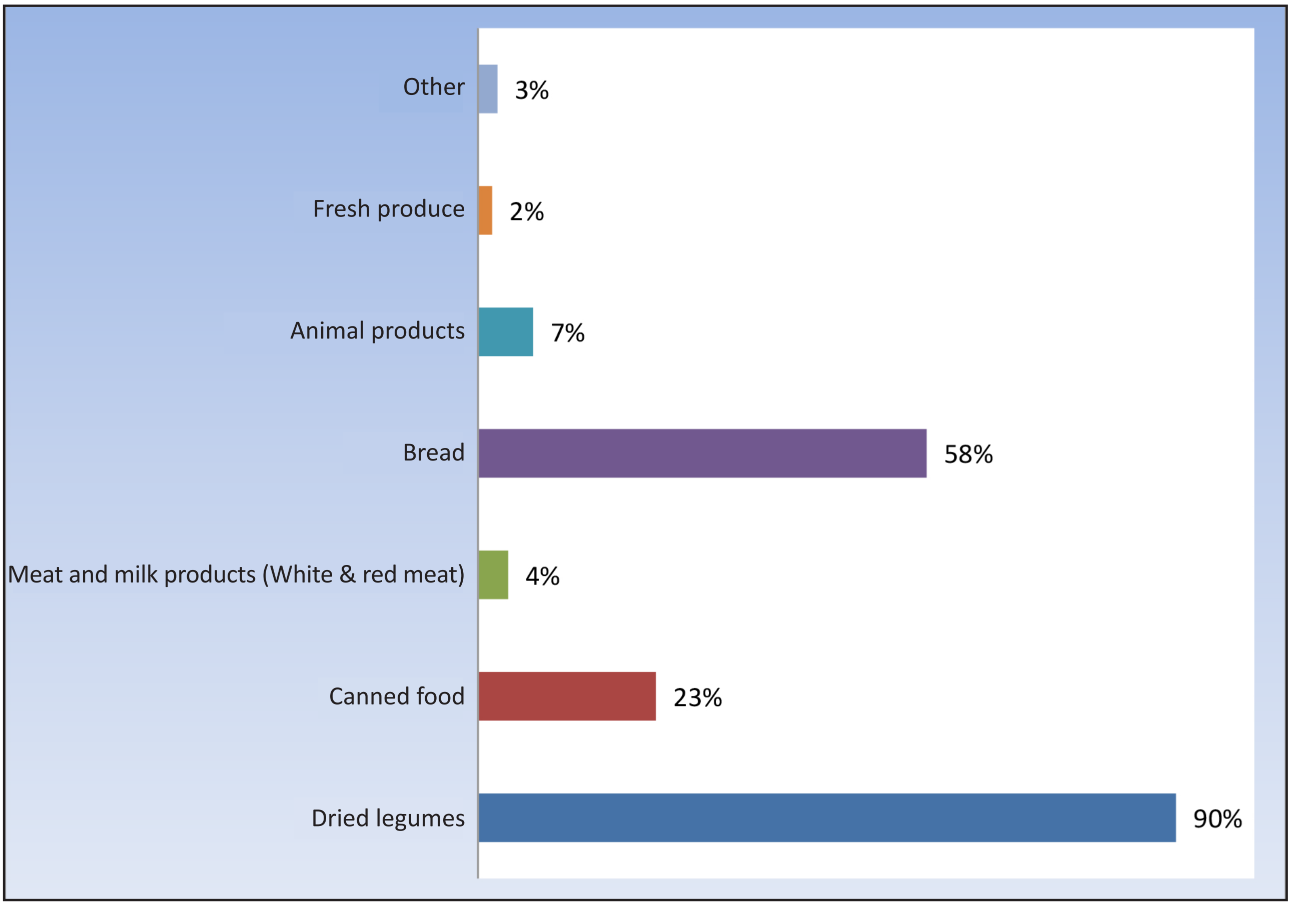
"We did not know that water would be cut off; if we had known, we could have stored some water"[66]

"We had no electricity, no water, we wrote a petition, but they did not come to fix it and later I fixed it myself, but water was still not running"[67]

---

[59] http://www.yyusbedergisi.com/dergi/bir-insan-hakki-olarak-su-hakki-ve-dava-edilebilirligi20180101042904.
[60] Cizre, age ?
[61] Cizre, age: 19.
[62] Silopi, age:32.
[63] Silopi, age: 65.
[64] Idil, age: 55.
[65] Nusaybin, age: 40.
[66] Nusaybin, age:55.
[67] Nusaybin, age:55.

Chart 24 **Foodstuffs that were most often consumed during the curfews**



The main foodstuffs consumed by the participants during the blockades were dried legumes, bread and canned food.[68] It was determined that many people suffered from vitamin deficiency due to their inability to obtain any foodstuffs for long periods of time that caused irregular eating and malnutrition.

"We had a cow. In the beginning we could get milk. I would milk the cow and give milk to women with children, in order to soften children's throats. Later, as we could not feed the cow, we could no longer milk her".[69]

……

"Mostly, we ate dried legumes. There was neither meat nor bread. We were afraid to make bread in the communal oven [tandir], because if they had seen some fire, they would fire at that area."[70]

……

"We had no electricity, no water, and were mostly eating bulgar. There was no bread. If we had made bread, we would have made some smoke, so we did not do it. We did not do anything because of bombs, we were very miserable."[71]

---

[68] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

[69] Cizre, age 55.

[70] Nusaybin, age 55.

[71] Idil, age: 55.

"Imagine, we did not have vegetables for days, we could not eat them."[72]

"We had some dry legumes, we were drinking water from well, we did not have fruit and stuff."[73]

"We would eat whatever we could find and share it with our neighbors. We had dried legumes. When they were over, we stayed hungry for 3 days."[74]

States' Responsibilities against Hunger under Any Circumstances

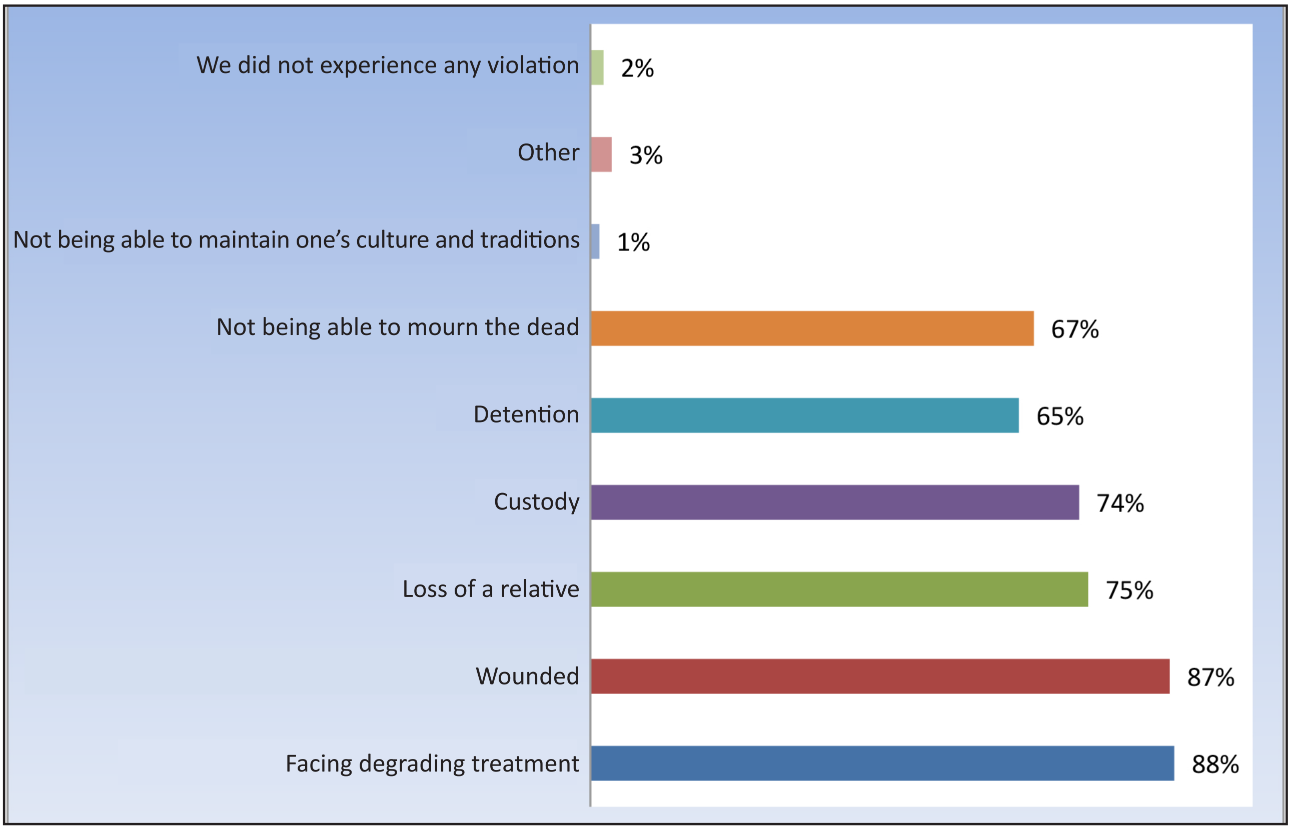
The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' General Comment in the Article 1211, Paragraph 2 of the Convention states that States—parties to the Convention—must recognize that being protected from starvation is everyone's fundamental right and that immediate and urgent steps may be necessary to ensure this right. Adequate nutrition is of fundamental importance for all other rights. This right applies to everyone; therefore, the statement in the Article 11, Paragraph 1 "oneself and one's family" do not in any way limit the applicability of this right to individuals or to households where the head of the family is a female.

"There is a breach of the Convention if a State fails to meet the minimum level of obligation required to at least prevent hunger. When determining which acts or omissions correspond to a violation of the right to nutrition, it is important to distinguish between a State's non-compliance with the Convention and its reluctance to comply with the Convention. If a State argues that resource constraints do not make it possible to provide access to food for those who cannot guarantee access to food on their own, the State has to prove that all efforts are made to use all resources at its disposal to fulfill these minimum obligations as a matter of priority. This obligation arises from Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the Convention, which had previously obliged the State to take the necessary measures to maximize the use of its available resources, as referred to in Article 10 of the General Comment No. 3. A State which claims that it has failed to fulfill its obligations for reasons beyond its control is obliged to prove that this is the case and that its efforts to obtain international assistance to ensure the availability and accessibility of the necessary nutrition / food have failed."

---

72 Şirnak, age:39.
73 Idil, age: 36.
74 Cizre age: 18.

Chart 25 **Reported Human Rights Violations**



Among the rights violations experienced by the participants during the blockades, being exposed to inhuman or degrading treatment is on the top of the ranking, followed by violation of the right to bodily integrity of oneself or one's relative; loss of relatives; detentions and arrests.[75] In addition, people who suffer from the loss of their relatives have not completed their mourning process according to their traditions and customs. Notably, some of the participants were not satisfied by the options concerning rights violations. They stated that they "experienced every kind of violation that may or may not occur to a person."

The Right to Protection of Civilians in Conflict Areas

Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, as one of the fundamental provisions of the *International Code of Conduct*, provides minimum protection for civilians in conflict areas. Turkey, both as a party to international customary law and as a member of the United Nations, must comply with and apply this article. Violations of this article are considered war crimes in terms of humanitarian law. Curfews and forced migration are considered to be in violation of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, as well as of several provisions of humanitarian and international law.

---

[75] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

"When we left here, soldiers stopped us, they cursed at us and took men into custody"[76]

"We came to Cizre. They did not allow us to bury [our dead] in the graveyard near our house. They pointed a gun towards me and a soldier said to me: 'Do not move, do not move!" I could not touch my son's coffin. I was crying heavily. Some time passed. My other son picked up the phone, he fainted when he heard the news. The first body was not my son's body, so we went to the hospital again and did blood exams. Anyway, they killed twice my son and me. We went to the hospital to take his dead body. They did not allow other people to come to the cemetery; they basically surrounded it. I hope that one day my son will enter this house again. They made a mistake once, so you never know, they might have done another mistake."[77]

"Soldiers were firing at our house. We hanged a piece of white cloth as a flag on our house, but they continued fire. They bombed our house, making a huge hole in a wall. I said to my husband, this time we are killed, and I cried. My children called me on the phone. I told them that I would be killed this time, that we were under fire, that they would burn down our house. ..A woman was killed in front of our house. They were firing guns, so we could not go to outside. There was a pregnant women, hit on the stairs, she died right where she was."[78]

"Children had hard times during the curfews too. When children wanted to play outside, they would immediately come and attack them. We do not want to have any aid from the state, we do not want to feel obliged to anyone."[79]

"My children had to stay in a dark place during the curfew for almost 1 month. After that, when we decided to leave Cizre, the pressure and insults used against us affected us a lot. When this was added to what we had already lived through, we almost went crazy."[80]

---

[76] Cizre, age ?
[77] Cizre, age 60.
[78] Nusaybin, age 50-64.
[79] Cizre, age 36-49.
[80] Cizre, age 36.

“I was arrested once, I was taken into custody and then released. People would go to the mosque for a prayer on Fridays, we [women] could also go out that day and buy what we needed. We could not go out on other days.”[81]

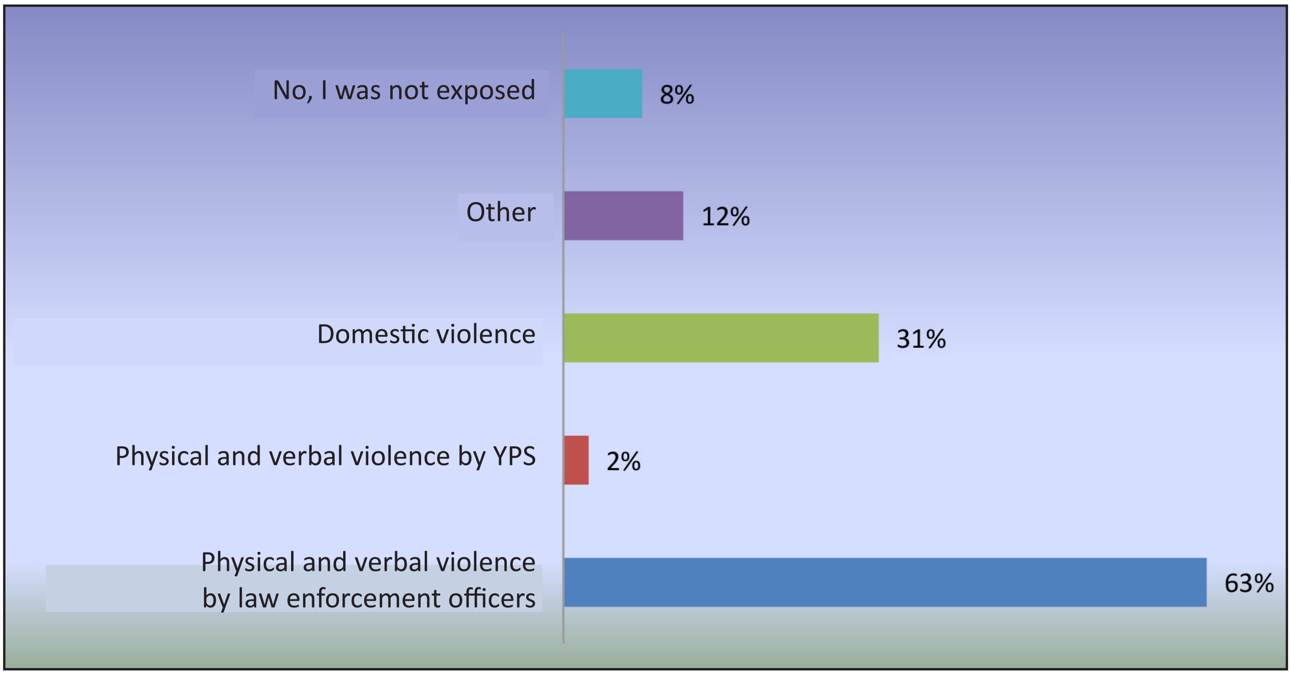
“Those were very difficult days. Obviously, they treated us like animal. All my life I never will forget events that I have lived through.”[82]

“We were not able to mourn properly for our dead. We could not have the body, because it was taken directly to Şirnak. When we go to his grave, we do not even know whether it is him or not, but we know the grave of our other son.”[83]

---

[81] Şirnak, age 47.
[82] Cizre,age 31.
[83] Cizre,age: 36-49.

Chart 26 **Were the participants exposed to violence?**



Among various types of violence experienced during the curfews, the participants were exposed mostly to physical and verbal violence perpetrated by law enforcement officers (63%) and to domestic violence (31%).[84] In all cities where the study was conducted, the participants talked about physical violence on the part of village guards and looting attempts. These statements of the participants provide important data that shows village guards' involvement in this process. It was mentioned that especially in the last days of long-term curfews, village guards frequently entered the areas under curfews and were involved in looting.

Although the participants indicated a high degree of exposure to physical and verbal violence by law enforcement officers, it is noteworthy that domestic violence increased or emerged in this period. The emergence of domestic violence as a direct result of the conflicts was part of many women's stories. This demonstrates that violence can turn into a cycle and have detrimental effects on social structures.

"For days, weeks, we were staying in the basement of the house. Sounds of bombs and guns were constantly coming from the outside. Everybody was getting crazy. We did not know where to release our anger. My uncle would beat women and women would beat children and children would break their toys. They would hit walls. "[85]

---

[84] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.
[85] Cizre age 23..

“I said, “A police tank came. Please, son, do not do that. Look, my daughter is disabled, this situation is not good for her. Please do not do it.” He said, “I understand, old woman.” Then, I called the guy in a vehicle. I said, “Soldiers beat a child. Do not beat my daughter.” The soldier said: “I am disabled too, I have a disability report.” The police beat my disabled girl on the street, broke her leg, bruised her eyes. My daughter fainted fourth times there. They burned our home. My daughter was crying and saying, “Mom, mom..” She could not see with her eyes, they were filled with blood. I went to my cousin who became a martyr. We went to the police station together. The policeman said, “The person who beat your daughter was not one of us, he was just wearing police uniform.” He was trying to cover up the incident.”[86]

……

“Both YPS and the government wrote on the walls ‘You are coward, you ran away.” YPS tyrannized us. They said, “Do not go out, you have to stay inside.” The state did not intervene because the state knew that YPS had set up barricades almost everywhere. The state was waiting to attack them.”[87]

……

“Soldiers were disturbing us all the time. After we migrated, a soldier said to us: ‘Why did you come here? You were killing us.”[88]

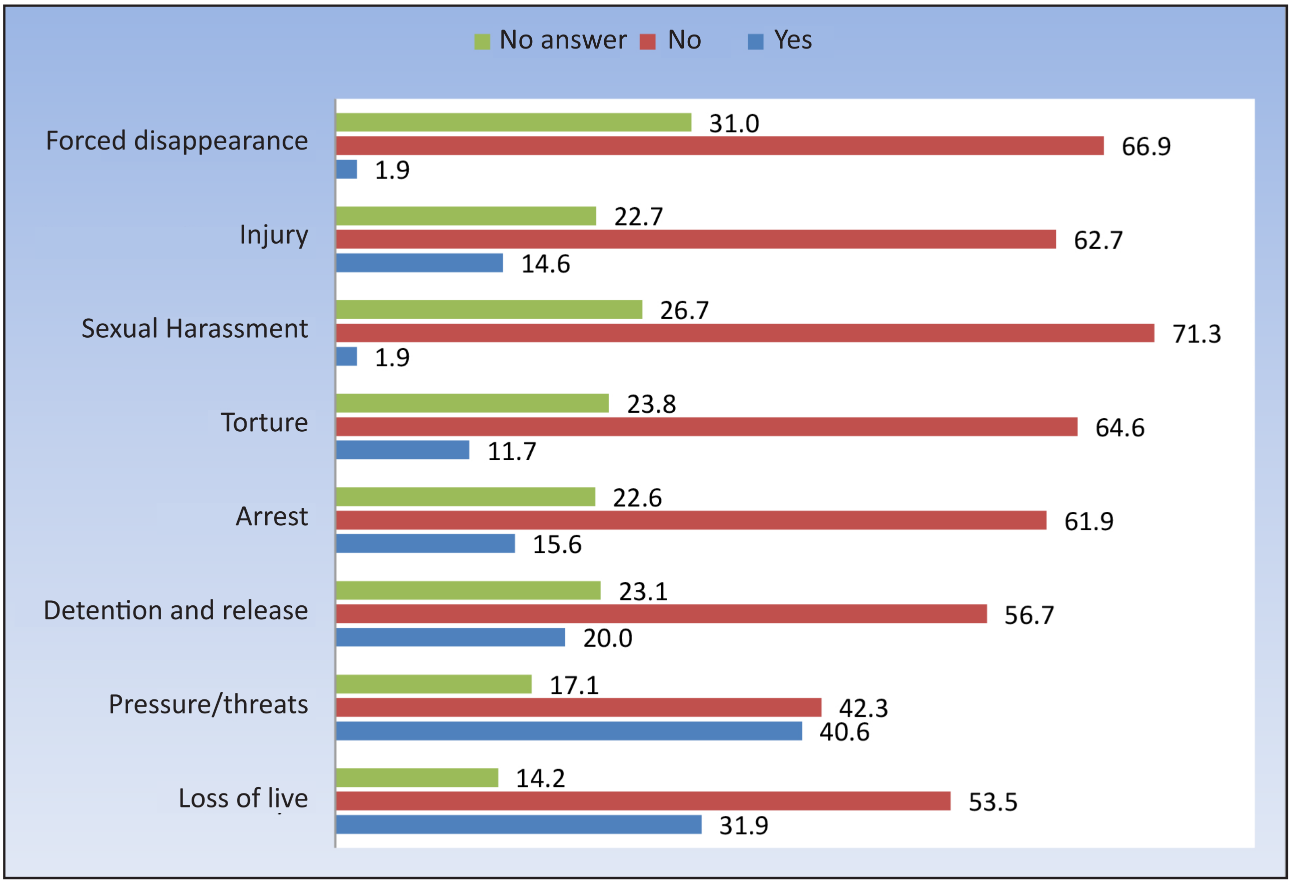
---

[86] Silopi, age?.

[87] Yüksekova, age 40.

[88] Idil, age 36.

Chart 27 **Incidents that were witnessed**



Many rights violations and pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses occurred due to the curfews. During this period, 32% of the participants experienced a loss of life; 41% were under pressure and threat; 20% were taken into custody; 15% experienced arrest; 12% experienced torture; 2% experienced sexual harassment; 15% experienced an injury/disability; and 2% stated that there were cases of forced disappearance.

CEDAW agreement and women's right to protection

During the interviews, a part of the women stated that they had been subjected to torture directly or indirectly; detained; injured, or had experienced pressure or threat. The decision 1325, adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000 and to which Turkey is a signatory, *for the termination of the conflicts in countries-members and the prevention of violence against women during the confrontations*, calls for implementation of measures to ensure peace and security for women. *The International Convention on the Elimination and Discrimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), which contains the broadest regulations on women's rights and all forms of violence against women, also stresses that states have obligations to protect women from all forms of violence. The Convention Article 2 of CEDAW, to which Turkey is a signatory, indicates that states have a duty to eliminate violence and discrimination suffered by women. As shown by the data in the table, both the Security Council's Resolution 1325 and the relevant article of CEDAW were violated in the period of intense conflicts.

One of the most important facts we have determined from this research is the case of enforced disappearances. Its frequency appears to be low compared to other violations, but in this context, 2% can be considered a relatively high rate. 31% of the participants did not respond to this question. It cannot be known whether these participants witnessed any case of forced disappearance.

Forced disappearance is a crime against humanity. It goes against The United Nations' purpose and is a severe and clear violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the *International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance* on December 20, 2006. The Convention entered into force on December 23, 2010. According to the Convention, the term 'forced disappearance' refers to "detention, custody, abduction or other deprivation of liberty by persons or groups acting on behalf of a State or acting with the authorization, support and knowledge of the State; who then deny their own acts or hide the location of the missing person, ultimately excluding the missing person from the protection of law."

According to Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Convention, "No one shall be subjected to forced disappearance". In regards to the state of war in Paragraph 2, "these exceptional conditions, including actual war, threat of war, political instability within the country, or any other public emergency, cannot be asserted as a justification for cases of forced disappearance".

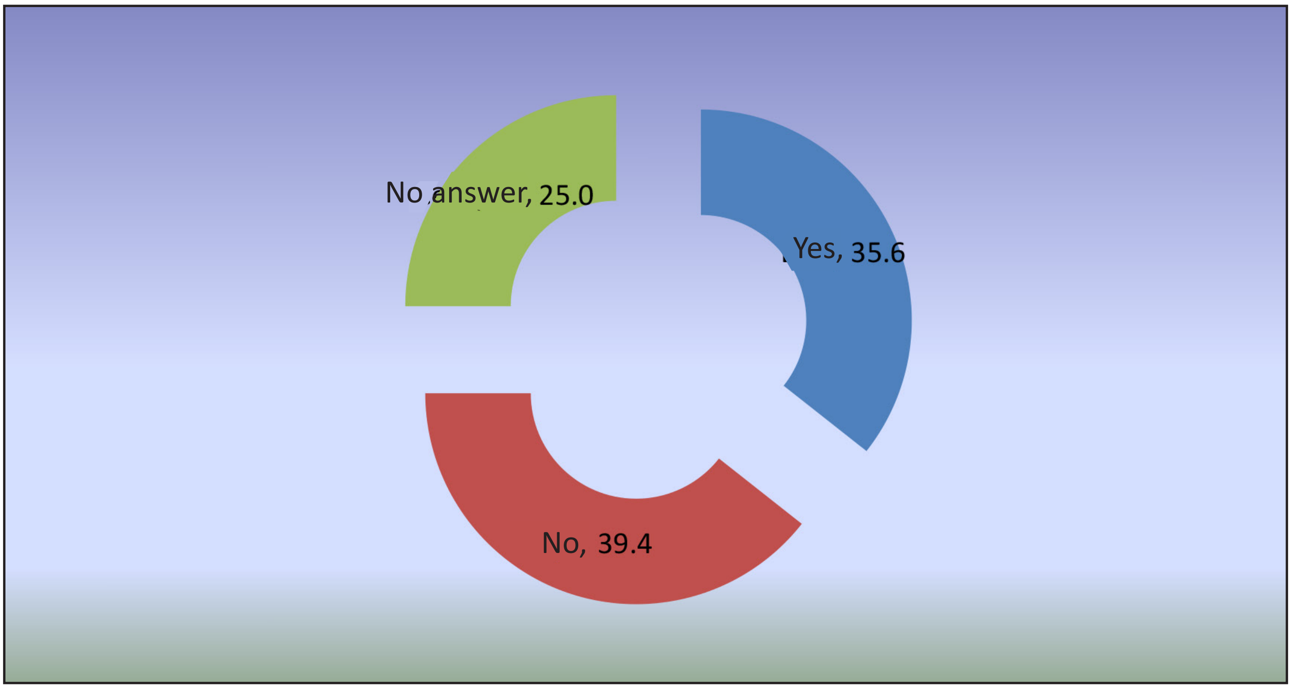
The initiative by the relatives of the disappeared known as the "Saturday Mothers," who have been gathering at Galatasaray Square in Istanbul since 1995, shows the extent to which forced disappearance is a traumatic process, severe and unpredictable both for the family of the disappeared and for social structures. Cases of forced disappearance were frequently witnessed, especially between 1990 and 2000. There was a decrease in these incidents after 2000. However, during the 2015-2016 curfews period, the cases of forced disappearance once again came to light.

"When my nine years –old child was sleeping, a passing bullet scratched her head. We were not allowed to go to the hospital due to intense conflict. I made medical dressing for the wound by myself. After she got hurt, we were living in the bathroom for five days."[89]

---

[89] Nusaybin, age 36-49.

Chart 28 **Were there violations of privacy during the curfews?**



36% of the participants stated that they experienced violations of privacy during the curfews; 39% stated that they did not experience any; a high rate of 25% did not answer this question.

"They threw away our clothes, urinated on my children's clothes, there was also shit everywhere. If you saw it, you would be repulsed. It was not easy to go through it."[90]

……

"They wrote on our walls and blankets. God, how can I say that, I do not want to say it. They wrote insults against women and men. They knew who stayed where and how many people lived there. They wrote many things on walls, for example, "We slept in your bed, we did to your wives and your children this and that." Things that I would not want to say."[91]

……

"One month before my daughter's wedding, they burned her dowry box. I could not sleep because of fear."[92]

……

They destroyed my place, forgive me but soldiers left shit in my place. I will never forget the fear in my children's eyes."[93]

---

[90] Nusaybin, age 50-64.
[91] Yüksekova, age 26.
[92] Şirnak, age 35.
[93] Cizre, age 35.

“There were writings on the wall. Underwear was lying around. There were some used condoms. I assume that they took shit in a pot and boiled it. When I saw that, I threw the pot out the window.”[94]

“When we returned home, we saw that they opened our food provisions. We can tell that they brought a dog inside and we found some poop inside. They burned some of our things and threw some of them outside, they slept in our bed, they poured oil, left shit everywhere. We could not use anything afterwards.”[95]

“Home was in disorder when I returned. Law enforcement officers used home as their station and sleeping quarters. We could not use anything after them. All of my things were new. Unfortunately, I did not have chance to use them. They tore apart my underwear in the bedroom. Condoms were everywhere around the house. There were a lot of hideous and derogatory writings on the walls.”[96]

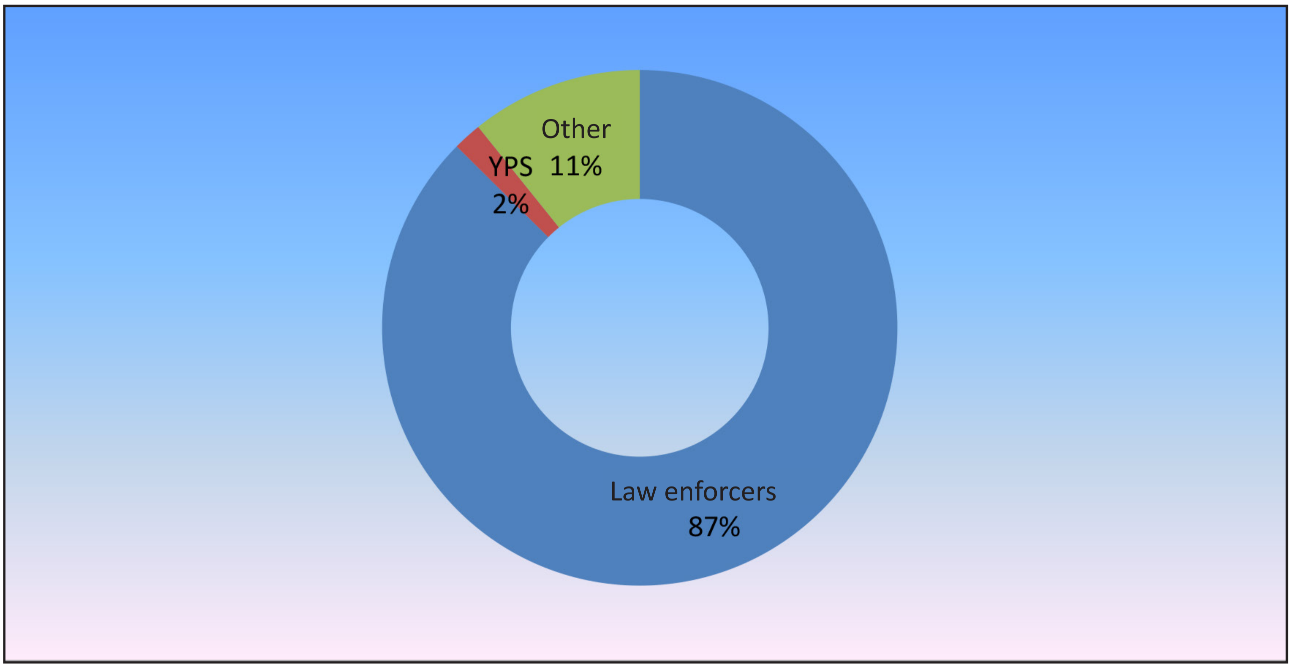
---

[94] Cizre, age:55.

[95] Yuksekova, ege 40.

[96] Cizre, age 31

Chart 29 **By whom were violations of privacy perpetrated?**



Out of 175 respondents who stated that their privacy was violated, 87% indicated that this had been done by law enforcement officers; 2% of respondents stated that this had been done by YPS (The Civil Protection Units [Kurdish: Yekîneyên Parastina Sivîl, YPS], also known as Civil Defense Units, is a primarily Kurdish rebel group and main armed force in the Southeastern region of Turkey). Although not included among the options, many participants reported violations by village guards. Women who returned to their homes after the conflicts, reported that young women's dowry had been stolen, their underwear was thrown into the street and that sexist and racist writings were written on the bedroom walls and mirrors.

"I was looking for my belongings for days in trash cans, I especially wanted to find my father's pictures. I was emotionless because I had lost my dowry box which it had taken me years to collect."[97]

"The enemy was coming and they were firing at our home. They were saying insults. They raided our house."[98]

"They used, broke, and burned our things. They broke our fridge and washing machine. They fired at our things because they did not want us to use them again. They broke our TV table."[99]

---

[97] Nusaybin, age 29-35.
[98] Idil, age 55.
[99] Yüksekova, age 40.

“They broke all doors, including the building door. They broke windows as well. They wrote on the walls. They took my wedding’s CDs, left the whole place, things and clothes, in disorder.”[100]

……

“We had a new brand epilation set, they took it. They took our money. People who came to search our house took these things, our home is very close to a police station, no one would want to rob our place.”[101]

……

“Law enforcement officers came to our home several times. They said to us: “Are you stupid? Why are you still here?” We said, “This is the only place that we have.” We were afraid! Because they could do to us whatever they wanted, kill us or fire at us.”[102]

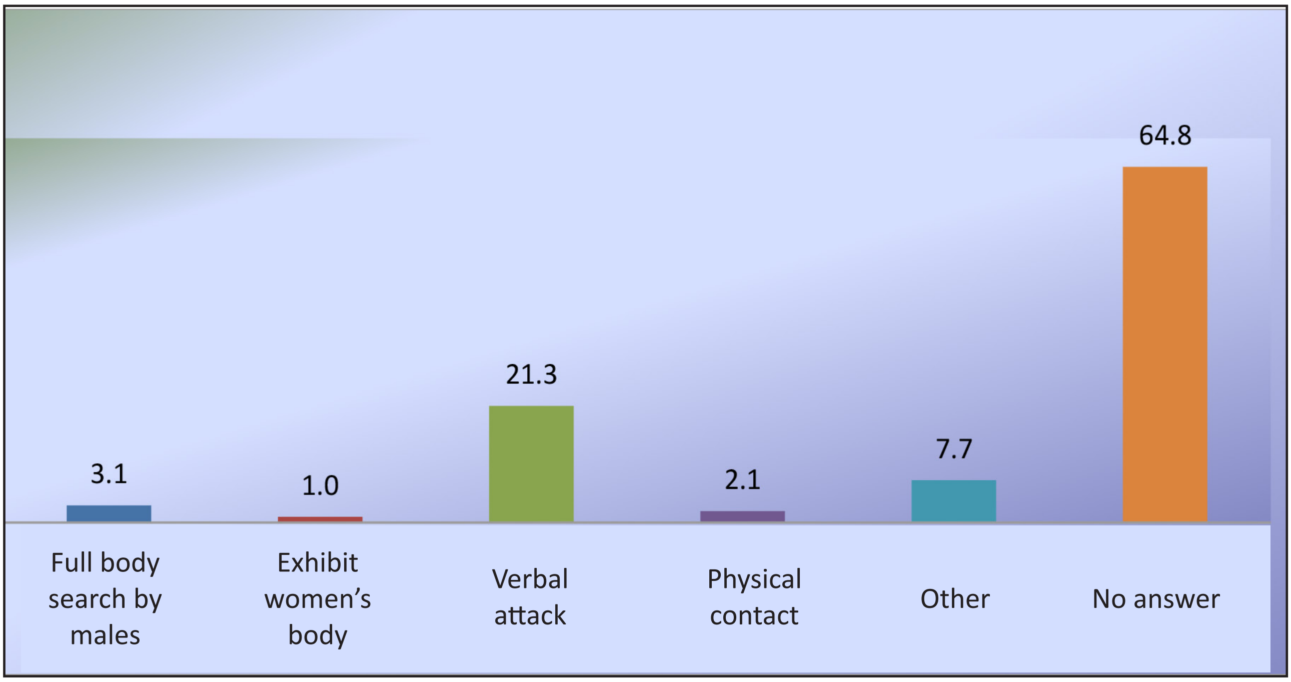
……

“When I went up to the second floor, I saw that they laid down our bed to ground. There were 33 beds on the floor. There were a lot of goods that did not belong to us. There were writings on walls. They threw around underwear everywhere. There were some used condoms and some open canned goods. We did not know what it was were but they ate them.”[103]

---

[100] Şirnak, age 36-49 .
[101] Şirnak, age 20.
[102] Cizre, yage30.
[103] Cizre, age 55.

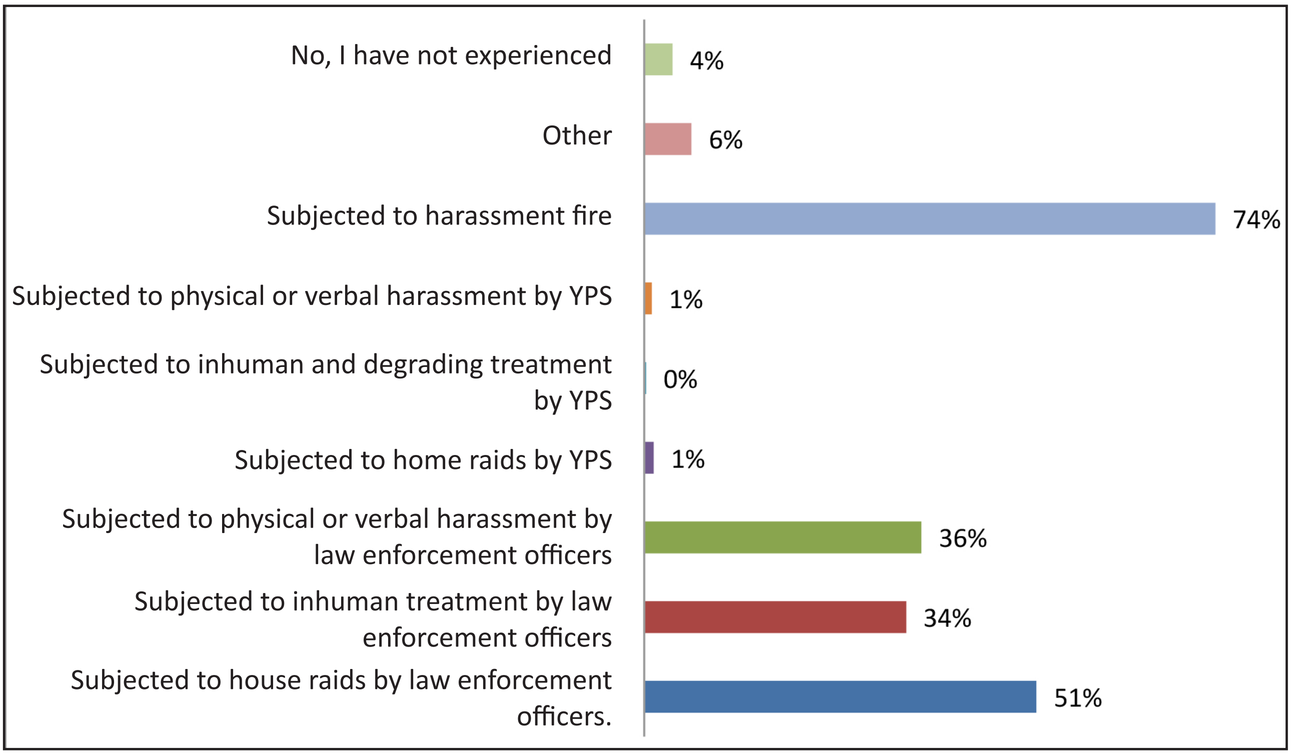
Chart 30 **Types of violations of privacy that participants experienced**



21% of all respondents who stated that their privacy was violated and that they experienced degrading treatment experienced it in the form of verbal assault; 3% were searched by men; 2% experienced physical contact and 1% reported having their body exhibited.

It can be seen that women whose privacy was violated did not respond to the question about the type of violation at a high rate of 65%. During the study, it was observed that women had difficulty sharing their experiences in this regard or did not want to share them. This situation is important as it demonstrates the need to establish unique mechanisms in the post-war/conflict period for women to explain all the violations they experienced during the war.

Chart 31 **Examples of attacks on private and family life**



74% of the participants stated that their homes were experienced harassment fire; 51% were subjected to house raids by law enforcement officers; 36% were subjected to physical or verbal harassment by law enforcement officers.[104] 1% of the participants stated that they were subjected to physical or verbal harassment or home raids by YPS. Attacks on women's personal belongings were mostly reported. It was suggested to add the option to the questionnaire—"Attack on women's private and personal belongings by law enforcement officers." This demonstrates that women see themselves as direct targets. The fact that the participants who did not think they would be compensated—in addition to those who believed that justice would be rendered—demanded more options in the questionnaire indicates the need for restorative justice.

Right to Respect for Private Property

A high rate of 74% of the participants stated that their homes were subjected to harassment fire. In particular, they reported that their homes were the target of this kind of guided attacks in order to force them to migrate. According to Article 35 of the Constitution and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights, all persons have the right to respect for the immunity of their property. As a result of the curfews and conflicts, due to the serious damages inflicted on people's property, rights under Article 35 of the Constitution and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 were violated.

---

[104] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

“Of course we faced degrading treatment by police. They told us “If you do not leave, we will kill you.”[105]

……

“Soldiers were saying in their announcements: “This place is not yours, you are Armenian, you and your children. You have to leave, or we will kill you.” They destroyed our house with three artillery shots.”[106]

……

They raided our home several times. I got cancer and asthma because of this. My ear was damaged.“[107]

……

“They fired at and bombed our place. After I left the house they burned it down. We returned after 20 days and they destroyed the place by then.”[108]

……

“They raided our place constantly and would take away remaining men. The wives and children of the deceased were staying here.”[109]

……

“No one stayed at home, my son was the last one to leave, he became martyr. Soldiers kept bothering us even after we returned, they would say to us, “Why did you come back? Have you killed us already?” Before migrating, we were afraid of course, during these 5 months we lived in fear of losing our children.”[110]

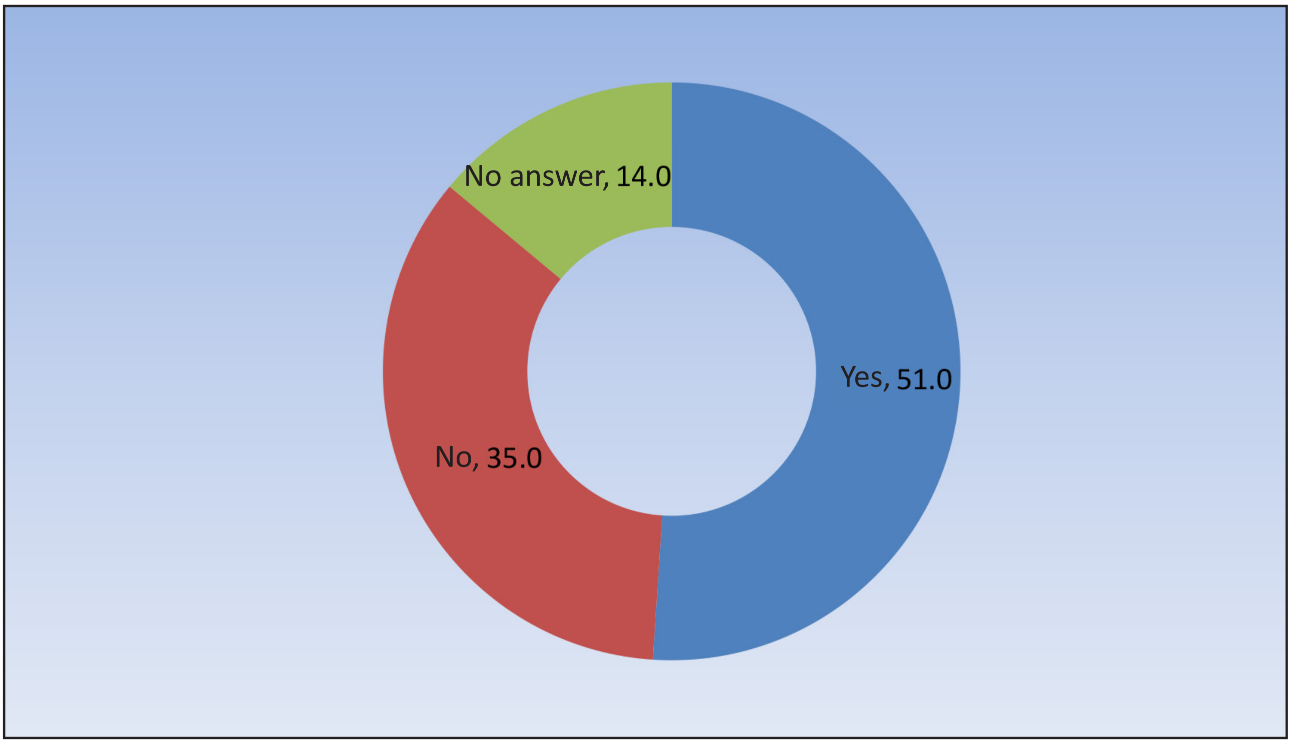
……

“It was snowing and raining. We stayed on the streets and in basements. Police did not tell us to leave, but they were firing at our house, we left out of fear.”[111]

---

[105] Yüksekova, age 80.
[106] Idil, age 36-49.
[107] Cizre, age 55.
[108] Idil, age 55.
[109] Cizre, age: 36-49.
[110] Idil, age 36.
[111] Diyarbakir, age 60.

Chart 32 **Did participants witness or were exposed to harassment during the curfews and blockades?**



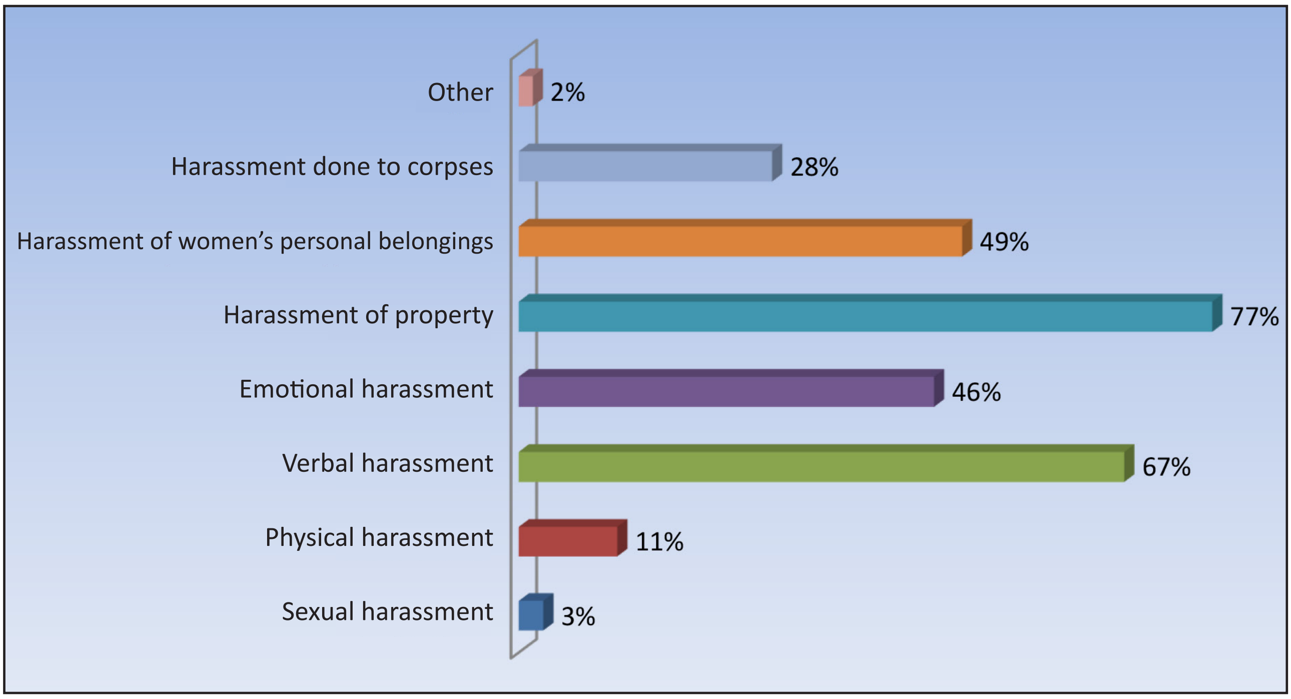
51% of the participants were subjected to or witnessed harassment during the blockade; 35% did not experience or witness any harassment; 14% of the participants left the question about harassment unanswered.

“As if the war hadn’t been enough, I was also sexually assaulted.”[112]

---

[112] Şirnak, age 29-35.

Chart 33 **Examples of harassment witnessed by the participants**



77% of the participants reported having been harassed. Out of these, 67% experienced verbal abuse. 49% reported harassment done to women's personal belongings.[113]

"When we came home, nothing was in its usual place. There were my brother`s daughter's toys, she was playing with them. She had a very big teddy bear, even bigger than me. They tore the bear in the middle. One could understand that they had raped the toy. Even now, when I remember it, I do not know what to do. There were condoms in my brother's room. They threw around my brother's wife's and my sister's underwear, putting them on display. This is immoral. I am trying to understand how one could come and do such things to my personal belongings."[114]

"During the curfews we did not experience any harassment. They were just bad things written on the walls. Insults against the people and the youth. They wrote these with paint. After we returned, police and soldiers were marching and singing in the neighborhood for two months, they were harassing people. They would say from their military vehicles, "You were cowards, you ran away."[115]

---

[113] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.
[114] Yuksekova, age 27.
[115] Yüksekova, age 40.

"I have no strength to talk about those days, I have nothing left. I am in a bad psychological state. I witnessed my child going hungry for three days. I had a miscarriage. Even when they were not bombing, they would abuse us verbally with their announcements, it was not moral."[116]

……

"As a young girl, I cannot articulate what I lived through in those days. My mother and I would start shaking when we heard law enforcement officers entering our neighborhood. We were afraid of being raped by them."[117]

……

"They burned many houses, those that were not destroyed were entered by the police. They left shit inside the houses. Forgive me for saying this, but when we went in, we saw that they even left shit on women's underwear. They wrote nasty sayings on the girls' underwear. For example: "Kurdish girls who wear [traditional] trousers, wait, we are coming." it has been three years since then, but these writings are still on my mind. Especially those against women, like "Get ready, girls, we are coming soon."[118]

---

[116] Cizre, age?
[117] Cizre, age 19.
[118] Diyarbakir, age 43.

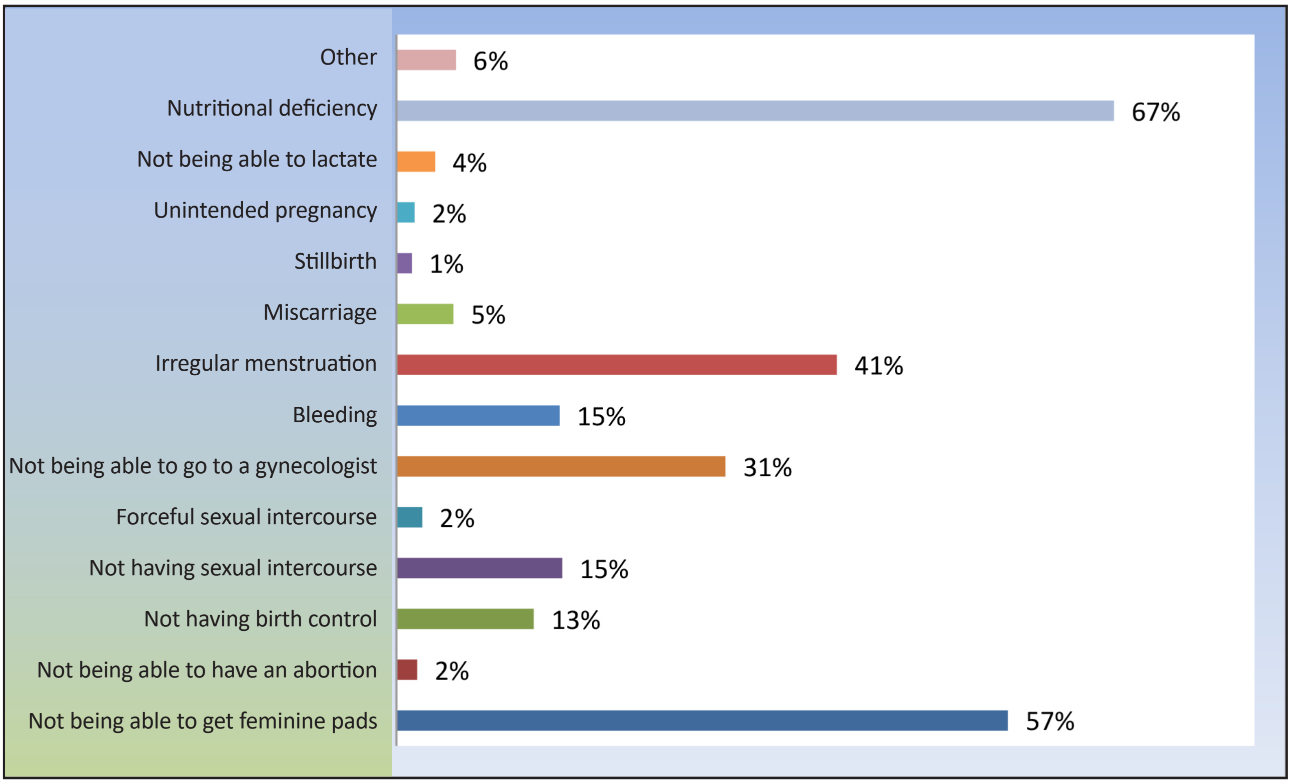
Responsibility for Prevention of All Forms of Violence

There are usually women in war and conflict areas. Because of their religion, language, ethnic origin, status, role or gender, they have been the direct target of sexual or gender-based violence. Sexual and gender-based violence against women was recognized as crime by the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on October 31, 2000. According to Article 11 of this resolution, all states bear responsibility to prosecute and end impunity of those responsible for such crimes as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, including sexual violence against women and girls.

Even though the UN Resolution 1325 puts responsibilities on the member states to prevent women from being subjected to such acts of violence, violence against women during war and conflict continues.

Following the 2015-2016 curfews, during migration and after, women and women's personal belongings were the target of the attacks. During the curfew, women were subjected to verbal abuse, especially by announcements, whose goal was to force people to migrate. For example, during one interview, a participant experienced difficulty breathing while talking about the events. Even though 3 years have passed, the fear of being raped at any moment while staying in their homes could still be observed in the participants' gestures and face expressions. The images of law enforcement officers have not disappeared from their memories. They described the people that they saw as 2 meters tall, muscled, with beards coming down to the chest, not speaking Turkish and resembling ISIS militias that participants had seen on TV screens. The fear of rape that ISIS has created in the Middle East is felt in all of the cities where the study was conducted. The role of this factor as one of the reasons for migration also needs to be analyzed. During and after migration, as women returned to their homes, they reported a high number of incidents of harassment against their personal items and living spaces.

Chart 34 **Situations that occurred during the curfews and blockades**



The participants stated that they experienced malnutrition and gynecological problems mostly due to food shortage during the blockade. They reported such problems like not being able to find female pads during menstruation periods (including the period of maternity) due to their limited availability.[119] The inability to obtain birth control, like condoms, oral contraceptives (birth control pills) etc. resulted in undesired pregnancies. Stress is one of the major causes of irregular periods. Several of our participants experienced hemorrhages and irregular menstrual cycles due to polyps and myomas in the uterus, caused by the inability to go to the gynecologist. Abortion could not be performed due to the inability to go to the gynecologist.

“We had sick people in that period, but ambulance could not come during the conflicts. Sometimes it would take two days for it to come. Or we had to stay at the hospital for 2-3 days because we could not return home. There was a market in Konutlar, I could buy pads from there. I did not go to the gynecologist. Once I had a serious issue with bleeding. I went to see a doctor and had a minor surgery, but I haven’t menstruated since then. ”[120]

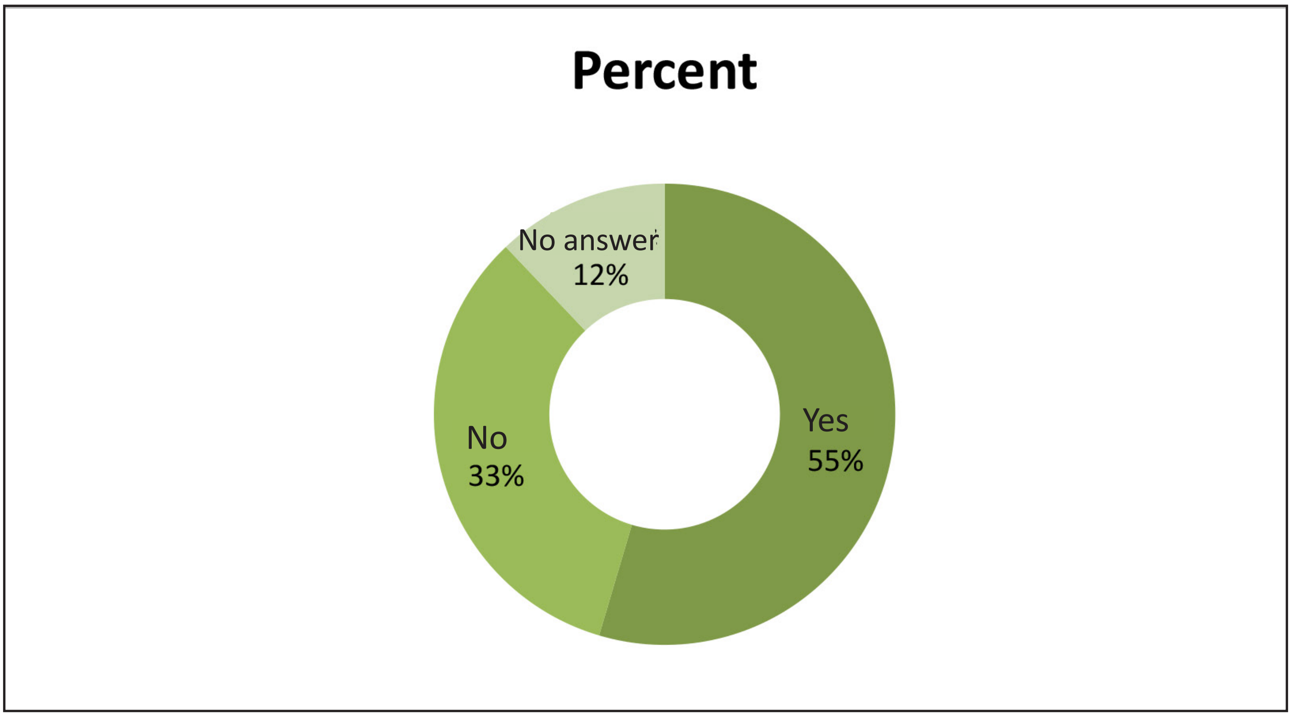
---

119 Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.
120 Şirnak, age 47.

“We did not have periods because of fear. We could not have pads, we had no water for 20 days. Children wanted to come to our house, but they wouldn’t let them come. We would not leave home, but we had to.”[121]

“We were waiting for rain to drink water. When it rained, we would leave our washbowls outside to accumulate some water. Since then my periods have been irregular. I was very worried. ”[122]

Chart 35 **Did participants experience health problems during the curfews and blockades?**



55% of the participants had health problem during the blockades; 33% did not report any.

“During the curfews my girl fell sick, my husband too, me too. I got diabetes, high pressure. My husband had mental problems, was depressed. He takes medicine, when he is angry, pills calm him down. My grandchildren were very nervous because of explosions, we went to Batman. Waking up, they would say ‘Mom I am so afraid’, they would not say anything else.”[123]

---

[121] Cizre, age?

[122] Cizre, age ?

[123] Idil, age 55.

"I cannot go out as before, I cannot sleep if I don't take medicine. I got diabetes; I did not have it before the curfew. I had a surgery for hernia. I cannot do things like before; I even have hard time preparing dough."[124]

……

"I got asthma after the curfew, everyone is sick I cannot have menstruation because of fear. We lost everything, I have respiratory problems, it's hard for me to take breath."[125]

……

"I got asthma after the curfews… everyone is sick. They used some chemicals around here because when we returned to our house, even though we cleaned everywhere many times, our skin turned red and was itching."[126]

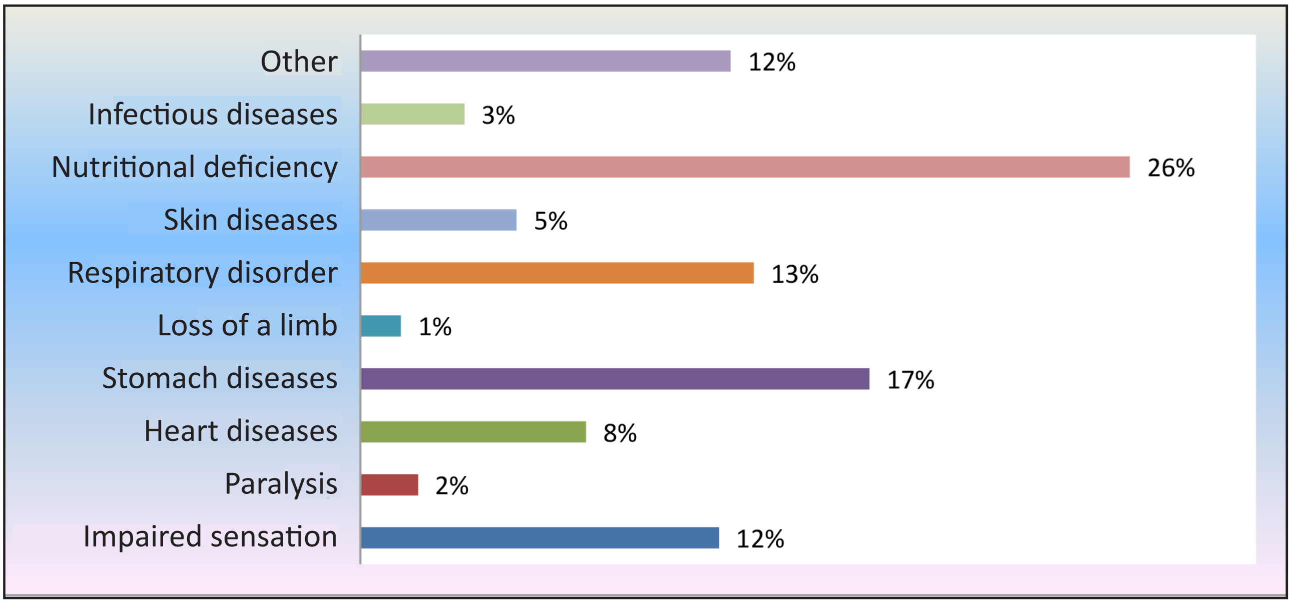
……

"My grandchild became paralyzed during the curfew, she had a surgery because of cancer. We had faced many difficulties in the past, they burned our village and we had to migrate, they tortured my son, he still cannot function properly."[127]

---

[124] Nusaybin, age 55.
[125] Cizre, age 22.
[126] Cizre, age 40.
[127] Cizre, age ?

Chart 36 **Health problems experienced during curfews and blockades**



26% of 262 participants who reported having health problems experienced malnutrition; 17%—stomach discomfort; 13%—respiratory disorder; 12% reported loss of sensation. Notably, a large number of people reported headaches. Some reported having lice due to the lack of shower and inadequate hygiene. There were also participants who stated that lice were planted intentionally.

During the curfew period, people had to consume stored provisions in their homes, some consumed only bread or dried legumes for many days. Raw food consumption continued for days, as there was no access to the energy resources needed to cook stored foods. These conditions led to the development of vitamin, mineral, and protein deficiencies. Hunger, stress and unbalanced diet lead to the development of heart diseases and digestive disorders. Consumption of raw foods and unhygienic environment create conditions for infectious diseases. Accumulation of toxic substances in a body due to raw food consumption, stress and vitamin deficiencies cause skin rashes and allergic reactions. People who remained in unventilated spaces for several days developed various respiratory diseases. Chemicals used during the conflicts are also one of the main causes of these disorders. Absence of routine controls of patients with chronic diseases, demolition of pharmacies in some neighborhoods, and limited access to drugs changed the course of diseases for some. Diabetic patients developed complications, such as retinopathy, neuropathy and nephropathy, due to the lack of medications and unbalanced diet. There were instances of loss of vision due to retinopathy. Another reason for loss of sensation was the sound of explosive substances that participants were constantly exposed to. People who were trapped in houses and had to remain in a sedentary lifestyle experienced an increase in cardiovascular disorders. Some people who developed hypertension due to the lack of movement and stress, experienced stroke, with the absence of drug use.

The Turkish Medical Association pointed out in its study:

"No vaccination service was provided for a period of longer than 20 days due to power outages and the failure of PCC (Primary Care Clinics). This will lead to disruptions in treatment of Hepatitis B and BCG in particular. There should also be concern about the epidemic of measles that is also common in the district. When we think that the environment and living conditions degenerate due to this disaster-like event, we should also worry about the emergence of meningitis among children. Diarrhea cases, which were reported to have increased, when we visited the district, are likely to increase even more and become epidemic in the coming days."[128]

The Right to Health Without Discrimination

The state is obliged to ensure people the right to health without any discrimination. According to Article 12 of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights International Accord, to which Turkey is a signatory, states shall recognize the right of everyone to have the highest standard of physical and mental health.[129] In addition, International Humanitarian Law prohibits governments - even in the period of armed conflict - to deprive people of the means to ensure the survival of their communities, including access to water, food and medical care.[130]

"My father-in-law had dialysis, and could not go to hospital, his body was all swollen...."[131]

---

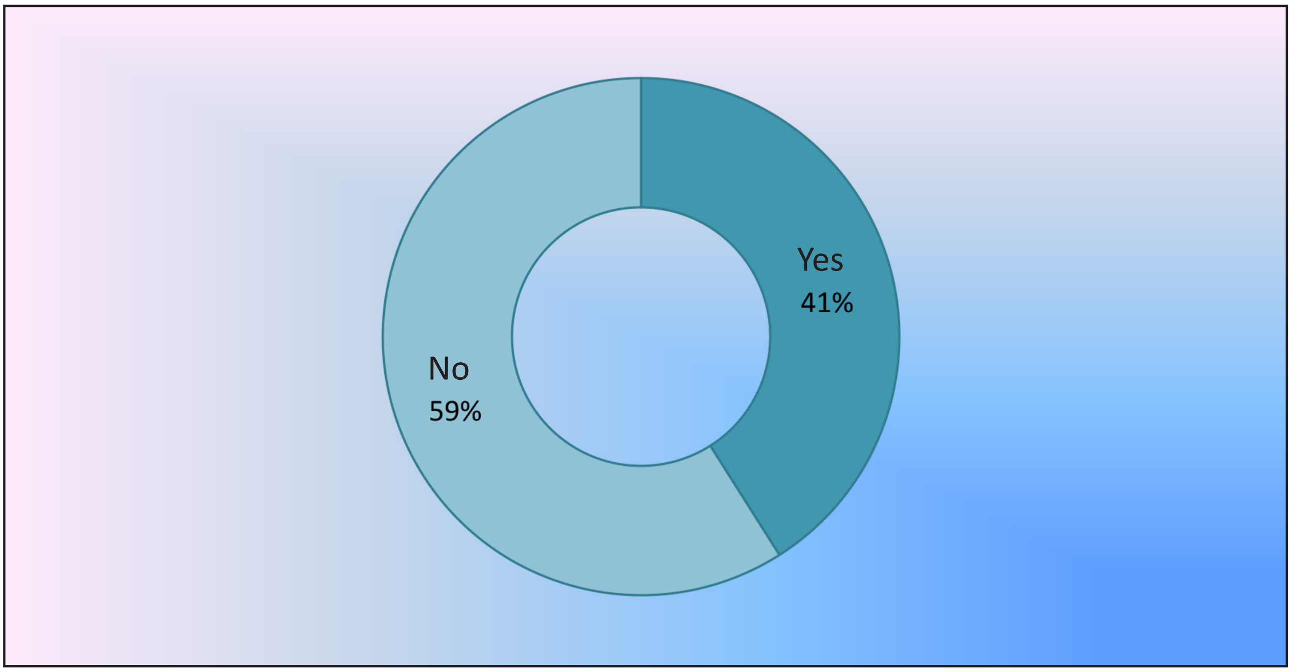
[128] Turkish Medical Association, Cizre Report, 2015

[129] Economic, Social and Cultural Rights http://www.uhdigm.adalet.gov.tr/sozlesmeler/coktaraflisoz/bm/bm_04.pdf

[130] International Humanitarian Law, article 130.

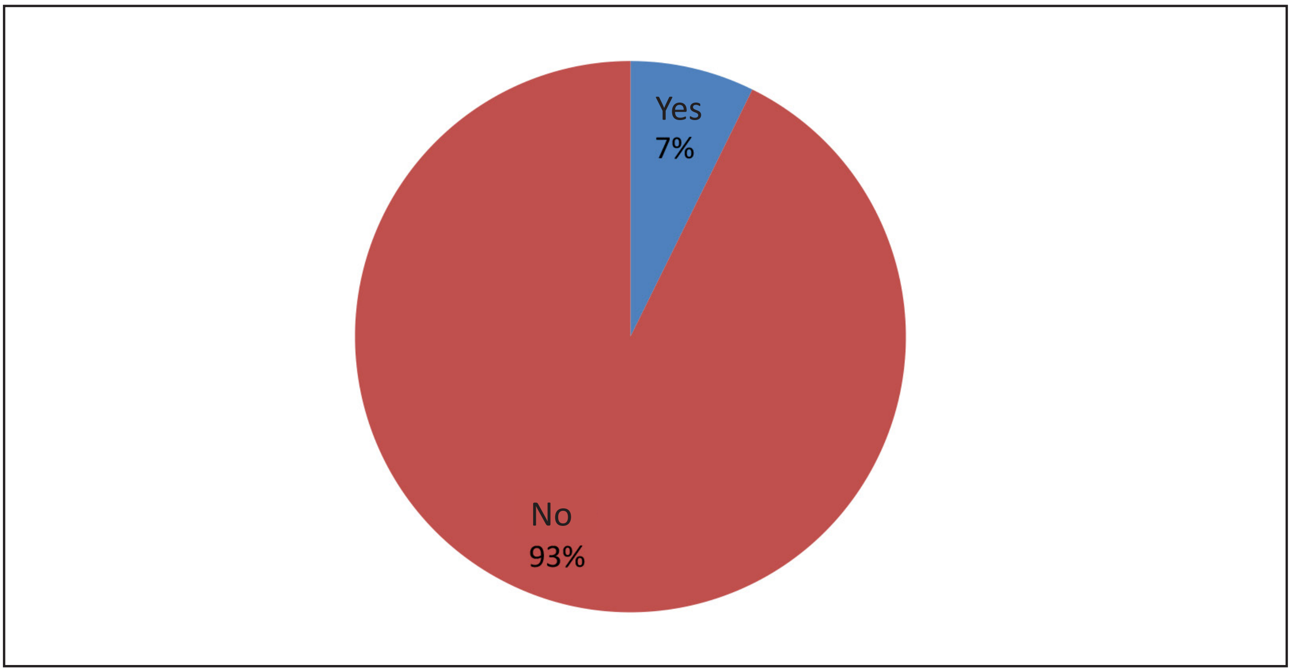
[131] Cizre, age ?

Chart 37 **Pregnancy during the curfews**



59% of the participants were not pregnant themselves, and did not have any relative pregnant during and after the blockades; 41% reported having been pregnant or having a pregnant relative during that period.

Chart 38 **Was there access to pregnancy care?**

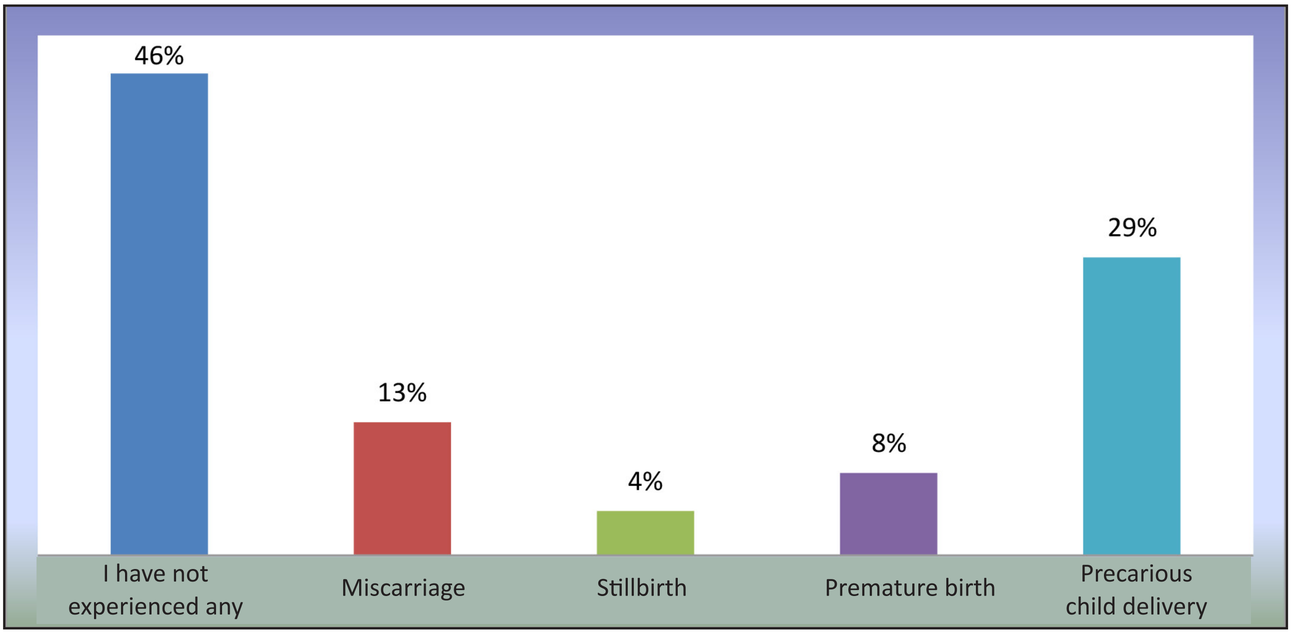


93% out of 180 respondents, who reported pregnancy during that period, stated that they did not have access to pregnancy care because of the limited access to health services in general. Among the interviewed, there were also women who gave birth during the blockades. They reported having faced such problems as not being able to benefit from health services, not having pregnancy check-ups or child monitoring, and not having access to polyclinic services. Women's inability to reach health facilities during pregnancy, when the regularity of health checks is of paramount importance for mother's and child's health, alongside with the horror and uneasiness created by gunfire and artillery fire in urban spaces, led to serious birth risks. Due to severe psychological traumas in particular, women experienced serious problems such as miscarriage or troubled pregnancy.[132]

---

[132] A Report on Idil during curfew period, Southeastern Municipalities, 2016.

Chart 39 **Complications that occurred during pregnancy**



46% of pregnant women did not have any complications during pregnancy, 29% had precarious birth; %13 had a miscarriage .

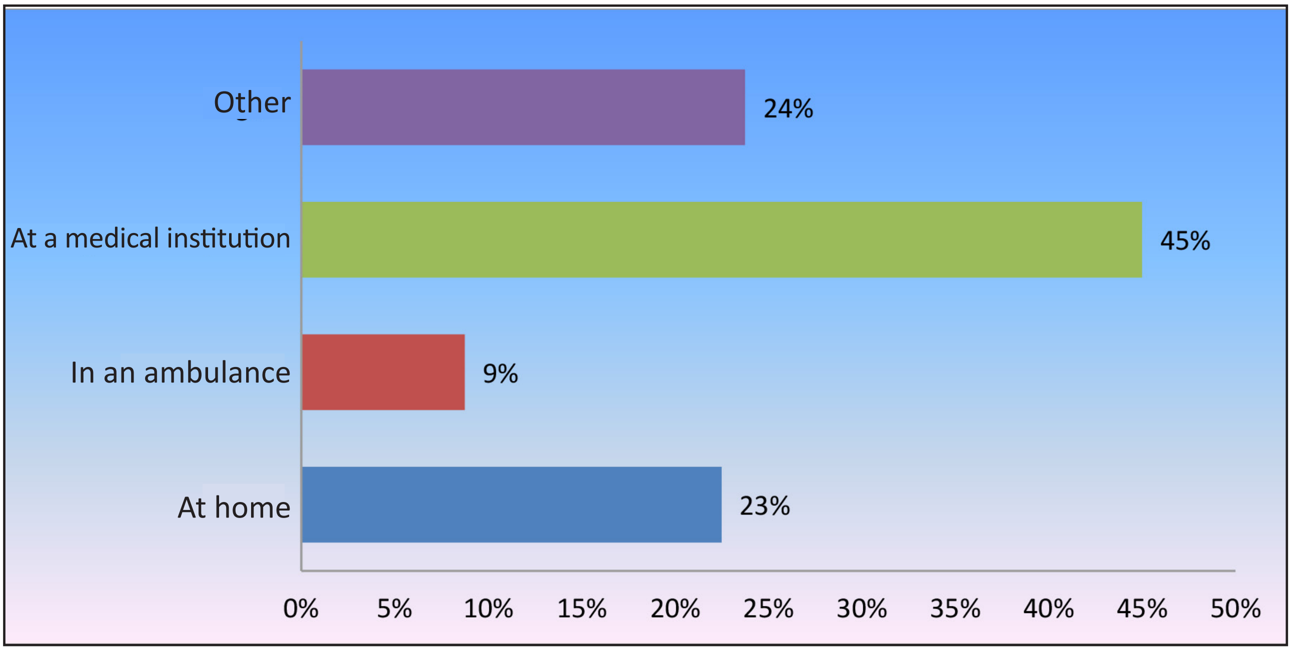
"After migration, I had an unintended pregnancy. I got an abortion because I could not establish connection with my children as I used to before."[133]

"I was pregnant before the curfews. Those days were so hard that I had a miscarriage. We went through a very harsh winter season. I was bleeding and on top of that shaking because of the cold. I was in despair."[134]

---

[133] Sur, age36-49.
[134] Cizre, age 30.

Chart 40 **Where was high-risk pregnancy treated?**



45% of high-risk pregnancies were treated at a medical institution, 23% at home, 9% in an ambulance, and 24% in other places.

"My child had been okay. They said I had miscarriage, but it was a lie. I was wounded, and no one helped me except my two neighbors. I do not meet with anyone any more. I no longer have trust in others. I wish they had destroyed our house, I wish people hadn'd died. You can build a house, but you cannot bring back a person. I was wounded in three places in my body, they shot me first in my leg, intentionally, I think, because they wanted me to drop my child, but I carried him home. If I had left him there, they would have killed him."[135]

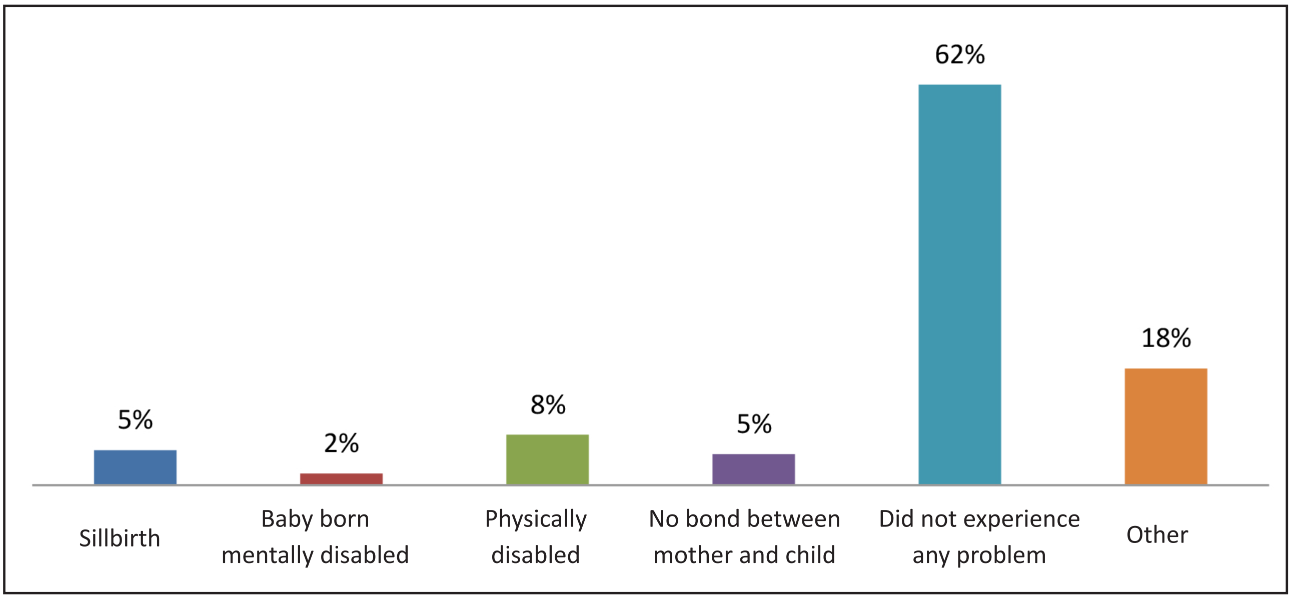
Gender Perspective on Health

General Comment No. 14 of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee: The right to have the highest possible standards of health, (12th Article) Twenty-second session (2000), recommends that States make a gender-sensitive approach a part of all health policy, planning, programs and research to improve health of both men and women. A gender-based approach generally recognizes that health of women and men is impacted by biological and sociocultural factors. Separating health and socioeconomic data based on gender is essential for identifying and remedying inequalities in health.

---

135 Cizre, age 34.

Chart 41 **Were the problems with the mother or baby after the birth?**



62% of 175 respondents had no problem with the mother or child before or after the birth; 8% of 175 participants had a newborn with physical disabilities; 5% reported stillbirth; 5% of mothers had difficulty to connect with the baby; 18% experienced other problems.

35.5% of women in childbearing age generally have symptoms of anxiety and depression. This situation increases with pregnancy. Pregnant women who live under pressure, violence, maltreatment and bad living conditions for days, experience anxiety, depression and stress at the maximum level. Anxiety during pregnancy leads to increased pregnancy and birth complications. It can lead to premature birth, low birth weight and intrauterine growth retardation. While anxiety before childbirth does not affect the connection between mother and baby, it is known that anxiety after birth has a serious effect on the mother's ability to bond with the baby. Stressed mothers cannot breastfeed their babies. There are many scientific studies that show that breastfeeding strengthens the bond between mother and baby. This is another reason why a bond cannot be established. Depression in pregnancy increases levels of neurocrania and cortisol, which reduces blood flow to the uterus and causes serious obstetric and neonatal consequences for the fetus. Pregnant women who experience depression during pregnancy have a higher risk of premature birth and a lower birth weight rate.

Due to poor living conditions, pregnant women were exposed to contagious diseases. Due to the lack of timely treatment, there were occurrences of stillbirth, premature birth and complicated child delivery. Inadequate and unbalanced nutrition of mothers during pregnancy was another reason for stillbirths, low birth weight infants, infants with inadequate physical and mental development, and premature birth.

There are drugs that must be used during the first three months of pregnancy. Folic acid supplements are essential to support the mental and physical development of the baby. When iron (Fe) supplements are not used, the mother can experience tachycardia, dizziness, fatigue and a higher risk of complications mentioned above. Osteoclasys in mothers and deficits of bone developments in infants occur due to vitamin B and Ca deficiency and lack of medication. Limited access to pharmacies and hospitals is the most important factor in these situations.

"My daughter was wounded on the 10th day and lost her child. Law enforcement officers were not letting me see her. If the ambulance had not come, I could have lost my daughter. I told them, either they kill me or I go, I had a hard time getting to her. They did not care for the baby, they even said the baby had died before she was shot. I know, however, that it was not true. My daughter told me that she had felt baby moving that same day. How is it possible? The baby was alive."[136]

* * *

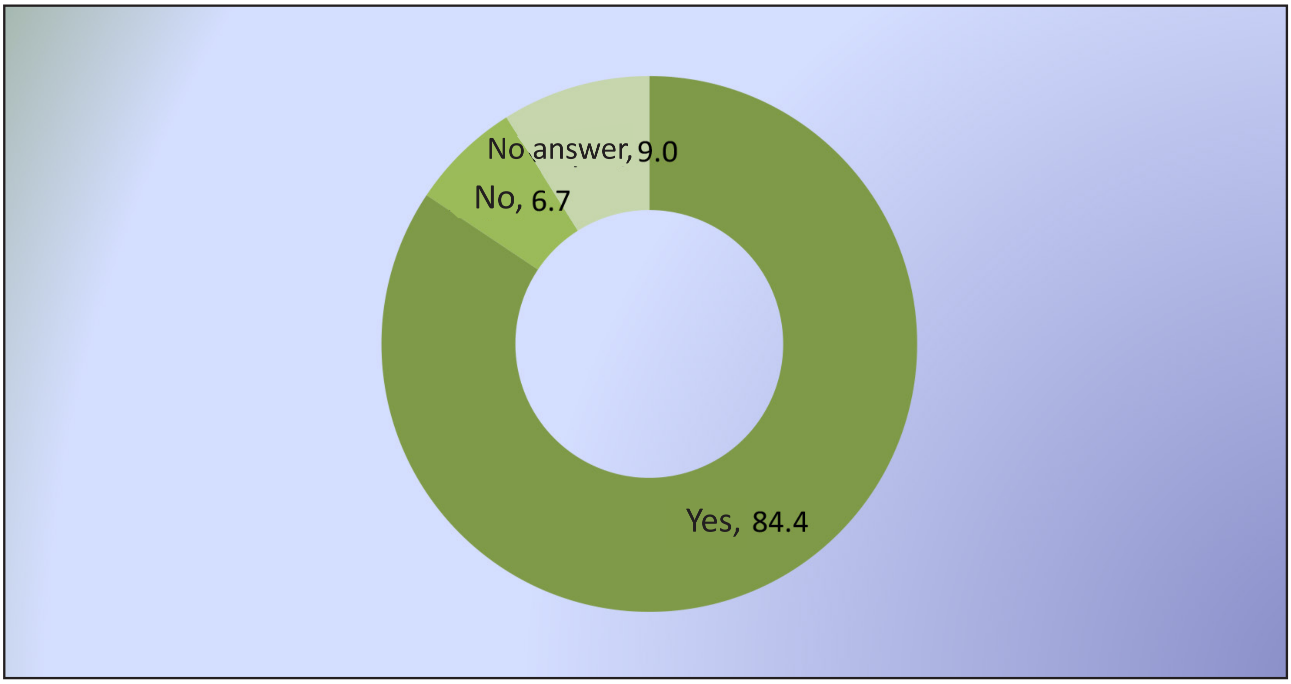
"My daughter-in-law was pregnant; her baby was born with a physical disability because of what we had lived through."[137]

---

[136] Cizre, age 50-64.

[137] Cizre, age 63.

Chart 42 **Psychological problems experienced during the curfews**



Physiological and psychological disorders can arise or increase during a conflict period. 84% of the participants stated that they experienced psychological disorders during the blockades. While 9% did not respond to the question, only 7% said they had not suffered from any psychological disturbances.

"Many people killed themselves after the curfew. Our neighbor's daughter-in-law killed herself. She became depressed, she told to her mother-in-law that she was going downstairs and then she hanged herself."[138]

……

"I do not forget anything about the curfew. When I think about it, I forget everything, even my children."[139]

……

"Yesterday while we were having breakfast, a bicycle wheel burst outside. We thought someone was shooting and we left the table screaming. Then we understood what had happened. But our children were very afraid. When fireworks were used [as weapons] during the conflicts, we told our children that there was a wedding so that they wouldn't afraid."[140]

---

[138] Yuksekova age, 80.
[139] Cizre, age?
[140] Idil, age?

“We had problems with my children in the place where we migrated. I am still afraid. They can blow up even the TOKI [public housing] apartment. ..One day as I was walking around, I found myself in the graveyard, with bare feet.”[141]

……

“I loved my child very much but during those events I lost myself and started beating my child. That’s way my mother-in-law took him from me. I was away from him for two months.”[142]

……

“They would fire at us every day, they were throwing bombs non-stop. Chippings and pieces of shrapnel would fell on us, our children were depressed. When they raided our house, my daughter hid in the fridge. The policeman called my daughter saying, “Come, I will give you some candy.” My daughter responded that she did not want his candy. They were shocked as they did not expect such a response. The death of my relatives impacted me very much, I am still depressed. My children were very afraid; even now, when they hear voices they shudder.”[143]

……

“I could not sleep, when I felt asleep, my brain would not sleep. Obviously, I was very depressed.”[144]

……

“I have changed since the curfew, I am no longer patient and quiet as before, I get really angry. We lived through oppression and difficulties. Everything was destroyed, our neighborhood was destroyed.”[145]

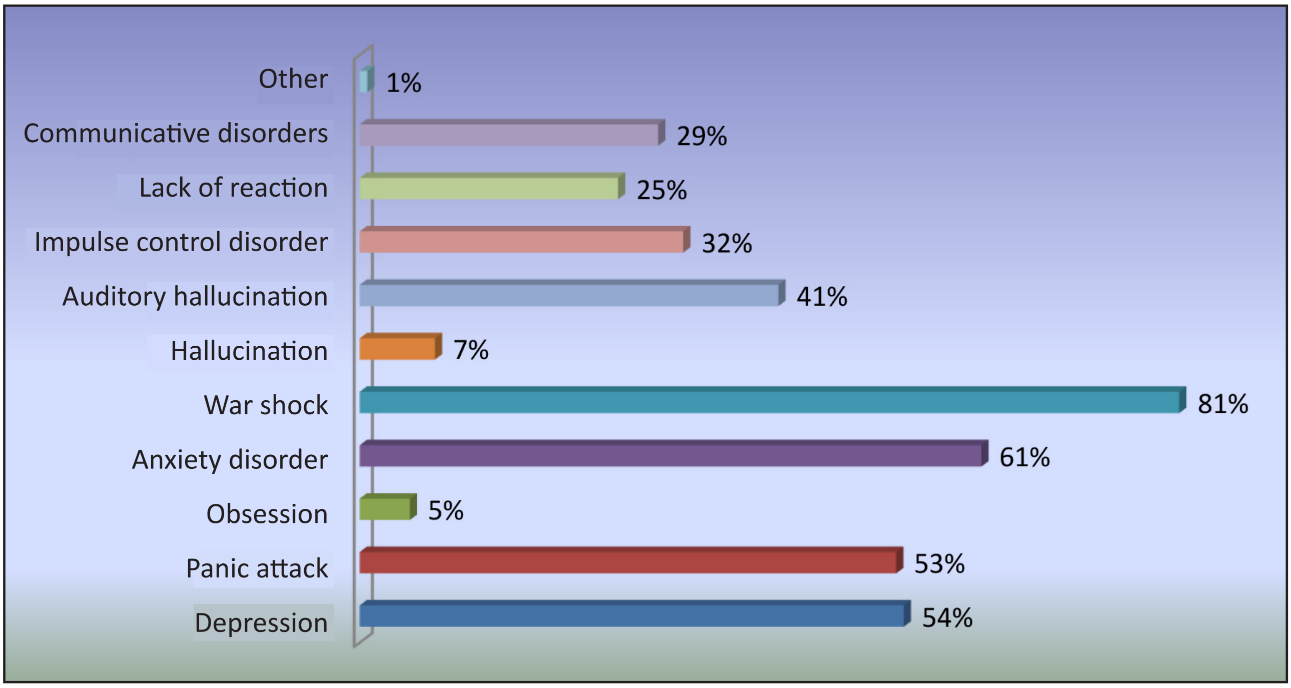
……

“Because of the curfew my son and daughter-in-law were depressed. Now they are at a mental hospital.”[146]

---

[141] Şirnak, age?
[142] Şirnak, age 28.
[143] Cizre, age?
[144] Şirnak, age 34.
[145] Nusaybin, age 55.
[146] Cizre, age 67.

Chart 43 **The types of psychological problems experienced**



81% of the 405 respondents who reported having some psychological problems experienced a war shock/trauma; 61% experienced anxiety disorder; 54% were depressed and 53% had panic attacks.[147] In addition, cases of self-harm and suicide attempts occurred, as indicated by the participants.

People are likely to have war shocks as a result of an unexpected war. 81% of 405 women who reported having some psychological problems stated that they experienced a war shock. The effects of war shock could be directly observed during the interviews. In an interview done in Nusaybin, for example, an interviewee was unable to react to a question, did not speak for a while, then exhibited excitement and started crying. The interviewee first did not want to make an interview, then said that she wanted to be interviewed, but before further questions were asked, she said “No, I cannot do it, I just can’t get over it,” which was followed with a long silence.

Among reported problems are excessive stress, illnesses, sleep disorders and eating disorders, sexual function problems, loss of relatives, death of loved ones, severe illness, suffering, not feeling loved and valuable, negative parental attitudes, exposure to physical and emotional violence that cause anxiety disorders.

In cases where pressure, violence and stress are very high, such as a blockade, anxiety disorders are more likely to occur. 61% of 405 women who experienced psychological problems stated that they had anxiety disorder. Intense anxiety was observed during the interviews. For example, in an interview held in Cizre, an interviewee’s answers did not match the questions; the person was under stress and in panic.

---

[147] Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.

The interviewee felt anxious describing the events that she had experienced and wanted to finish the interview quickly. In another interview, two different interviews were conducted with the same person. After the first interview, the interviewee sought out the interviewer and said that she did not respond correctly to the survey about fear and anxiety. She said that her son, who was present during a part of the interview, was angry that she had not told the truth and asked for a new interview. In the second interview, answers differed from those given the first interview. In many interviews, it was observed that interviewees continued to feel threatened.

In the interviews, the following symptoms of dysthymic disorder were observed: a decrease in interest in daily activities, feeling hopeless, decline in efficiency and low self-esteem. 54% of 405 women who reported having psychological problems stated that they experienced depression.

During the interviews, women stated that they had panic attacks (social anxiety and fear, difficulty breathing and an abnormal acceleration of the heartbeat) and that they started to use medicine after the blockades. 53% of 405 women reported having a panic attack.

Although there was no external stimulation (auditory hallucinations) during the interviews, some participants stated that they heard tanks, cannons, or gunfire. 41% of 405 women who participated in this questionnaire stated that they had auditory hallucinations. Women stated that they had developed feeling of exclusion, feeling of guilt related to the past experiences and anger control disorder due to the high level of serotonin caused by bad conditions. 32% of women who reported experiencing psychological problems had anger control disorder.

In one interview, for example, a person stated that she used to be quiet before the blockade, but started experiencing anger more often afterwards due to her exclusion in the place where she had migrated. She also stated that one day she had attacked a school friend who had been ostracizing her. She stated that she did not regret her actions. Although more than 2 years have passed since the end of the blockade, she reported having problems with anger control.

Hearing loss that causes communication disorders, neurological disorders, and emotional or psychiatric disorders was observed in the interviews; women interviewed reported these symptoms themselves as well. 29% of the women who reported having psychological problems stated that they had communication disorders.

Although a very long period of time has passed since the trauma, participants manifested—depending on the severity of the trauma and the intensity with which it was experienced—inability to cry, shock, inability to feel emotions and inability to react. These conditions were observed during the interviews and reported by the interviewees themselves. 25% of the women who reported having psychological problems stated that they experienced lack of reaction.

Many people have been observed to have a sense of coldness or hostility towards their relatives and spouses.

Chart 44 **Feelings experienced during and after curfews**

	None	Barely	Some	Partially	Considerable	A lot
Anxiety	3%	2%	3%	6%	11%	75%
Madness	5%	3%	3%	4%	10%	75%
Regret	39%	7%	5%	6%	8%	35%
Shame	54%	4%	4%	5%	6%	27%
Sadness	0%		2%	2%	10%	85%
Fear	3%	1%	3%	3%	9%	81%
Anger	4%	1%	4%	4%	11%	75%
Hopelessness	6%	2%	5%	4%	12%	71%
Despair	7%	2%	3%	3%	10%	75%

75% of the participants felt anxiety and anger in regards to the curfews and subsequent developments; they stated that they had feelings of anger, hopelessness and despair after the events they had experienced. 85% of the participants reported feeling sad; 81% stated that they live in fear; 54% of the participants felt no shame; 39% stated that they do not have any regrets.

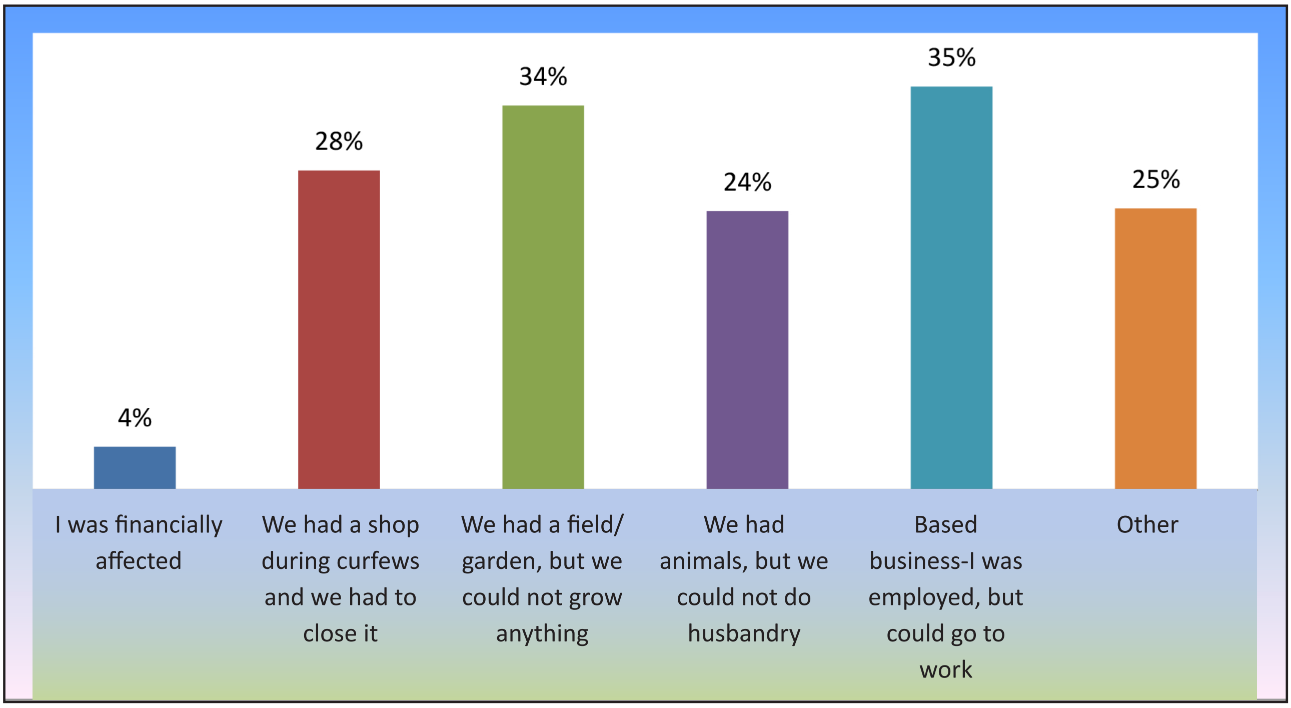
In the interviews, women expressed feelings of anxiety, helplessness, anger, shame, sadness, fear, anger, despair connected to their memories, thoughts and emotions about the bad or bitter events they had experienced before, during and after migration. Since they interpreted the question of shame and regret in two different ways, they gave ambivalent answers.

In an interview done in Nusaybin, the question of whether the interviewee experienced repentance, the participant answered, “Yes I have felt this a lot... I wish I had died and had not left my home... If something like this happens again, and it will of course—this state would do anything—I will never leave my home.”

Another interviewee who stated that she experienced shame, answered: “Male soldiers stopped us on our way out of Cizre... He searched us in the middle of the road, people were recording us with cameras from their houses... I felt very ashamed at that movement.”

“I’m very angry at the state, I can’t go anywhere on the street. Every time I see places I relive the blockade again and again… I was not scared… Not at all, I am just feeling frustration from despair.”[148]

Chart 45 **Economic impact of the curfews**



96% of the participants stated that they were affected economically for different reasons; 35% of the respondents said they could not go to work; 34% had been engaged in field / garden cultivation but could not do it during the curfews; 28% were tradespeople and they had to close their shops; 24% of them stated that they had engaged in animal husbandry, but could not continue their work during this period. 25% of the participants stated that they were affected negatively in economic terms for other reasons. Only 4% of respondents stated that they were not affected economically during the curfew period.[149]

“Before the curfew, we had animals, but we could not feed them, because we could not go out. We had a garden, but we could not water the plants… Once I went to the garden and we watered it. Then state [officials] came and asked, “Where are you coming from?” and then, without waiting for our response, “Why did you go out?”’[150]

---

148 Cizre, age?
149 Due to multiple choice options N is higher than sample size.
150 Şirnak, age 47.

“We had a food market. We operated it and thus supported ourselves. During the curfew they took everything from the market, nothing had left. And the state did not help us. We did not reopen the market again, it’s closed.”[151]

“During the curfew our house was greatly damaged. We lost all our animals and garden. We have nothing left.”[152]

“As the curfew began, we had to migrate. There was no work where we went to… That’s why we had problems economically.”[153]

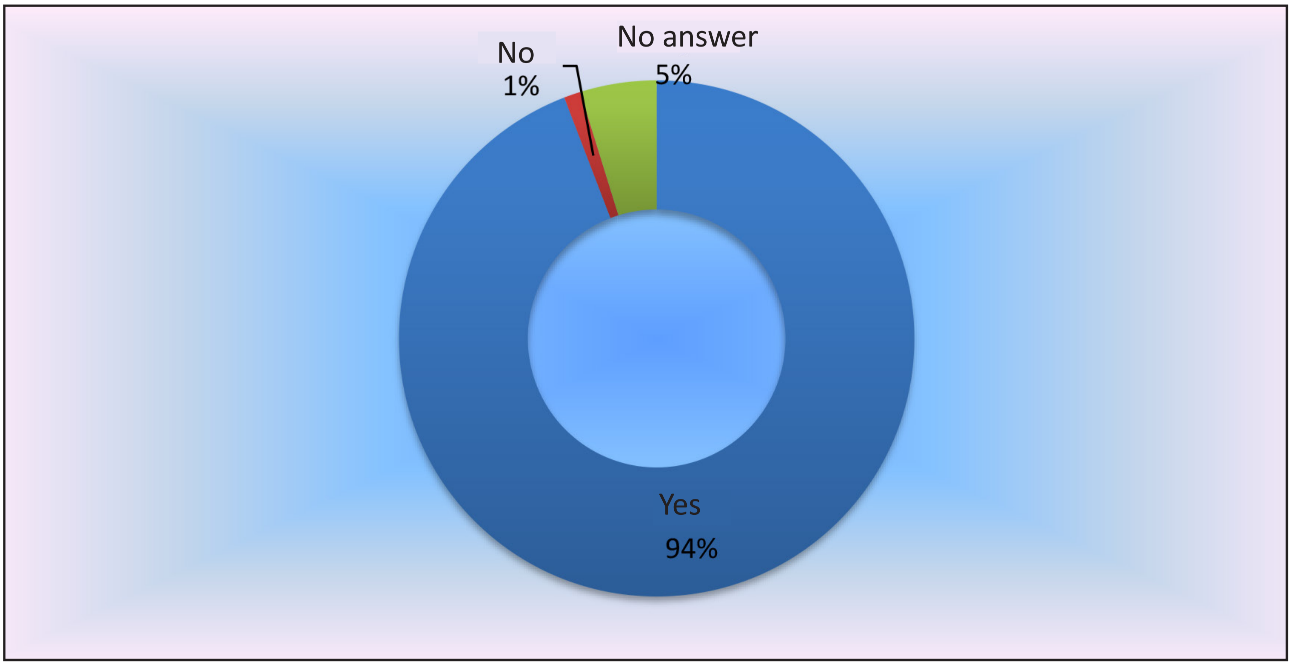
“We had a shop, but it had gone to ruin when we came back. We have no work, but still we are thanking God.”[154]

---

[151] Yuksekova, age 40.
[152] Cizre, age?
[153] Şirnak, age?
[154] Şirnak, age 58.

4.3. Out of The City/Migration Period

Chart 46 **Forced migration that occurred during the curfews**



94% of the participants experienced forced migration during the curfews period. The participants stated in the interviews that they migrated more than once during the blockade.

In addition, some of the participants reported that they had experienced forced migration when villages were evacuated and burned in the 1990s. These participants compared their previous experiences with the forced migration during the recent conflicts.

“After the curfew we went to Mardin. When we came back to Nusaybin, our house was already gone. The house in Mardin was like a barn and they asked for a high rent, so we went to another house. Anyway, we looked for a house here and there. We returned to Nusaybin and rented this house.”[155]

“Before migration I was in Idil, we went to Midyat to someone’s house. My son died a martyr. We went to Dargeçit, our village is there. After the funeral we came back to Idil, there was nothing left by then.”[156]

---

[155] Nusaybin, age 50.

[156] Idil, age 36.

"During the curfew we went from one city to another. My entire family went to different places, like Şirnak, Midyat, Mersin. We had some relatives in every place that we went to; yet we had difficulties. We never feel at home."[157]

"Our house was destroyed 3 times, we fled away 3 times. We migrated in 1992. We were exhausted. We fled away during the curfew because of fear, we left our house, we left our things. We fled away, we could not stay because of fear, we came back only after the curfew. First, we went to Silopi, then Cizre and then Kumçatı. We have moved 4-5 times by now."[158]

"I went to Ankara two months before the curfew. After the curfew was declared, it became very cold in Ankara, we all got sick. After that I went to Mersin. I stayed there for 3-4 months. And then I went to Şirnak, Toptepe village, and stayed there for 2.5 months. Because we could not make a living there, we decided to come back. We came back to our house."[159]

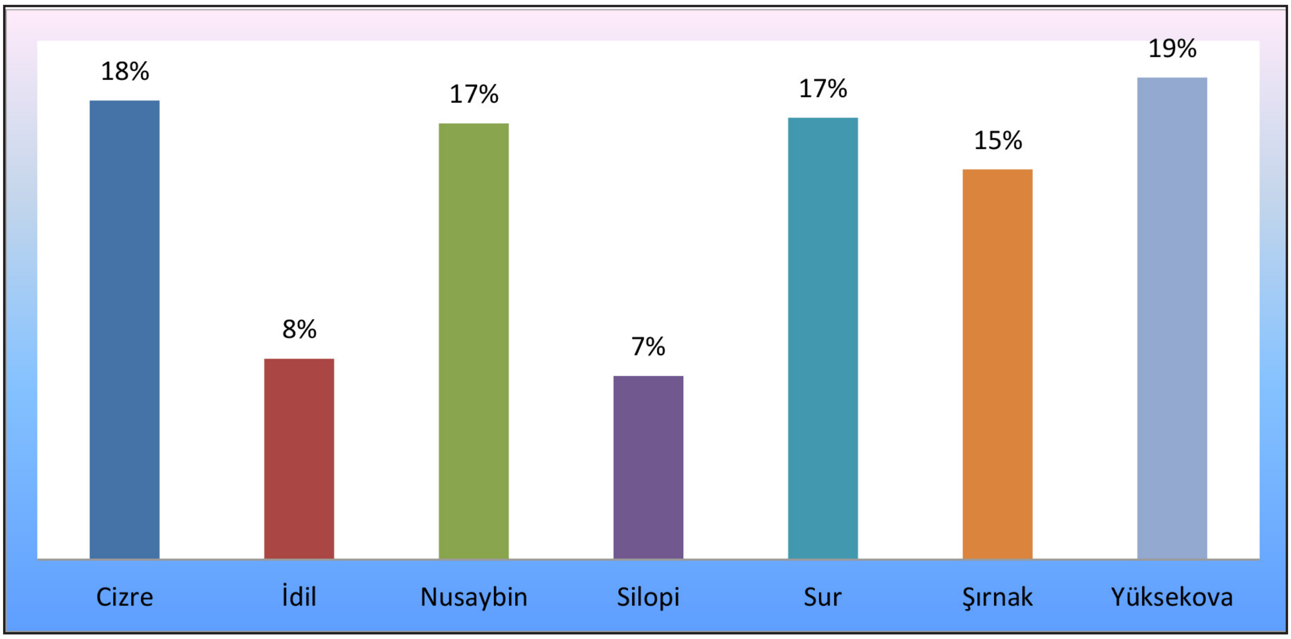
"We had migrated before, but I don't remember that. I was a child, I was 3-4 years old when we migrated to Silopi from the village. Because of the evacuation and burning of villages… The curfews lasted more than a month. First Silopi, then Siirt and then Silopi-Cudi neighbourhood again."[160]

"Here is the land of my father, land of my grandfather… I am from here, I am a citizen of this land. After that we went to Syria. In the 90s, during the evacuation and burning of villages, they bombed and burned our house. We moved to Syria. Our house was destroyed in Syria and we migrated to Turkey again."[161]

---

[157] Cizre, age 40.
[158] Şirnak, age 58.
[159] Şirnak, age 39.
[160] Şirnak, age 25.
[161] Nusaybin, age 29-35.

Chart 47 **Percentage of the participants who faced forced migration based on provinces and districts**



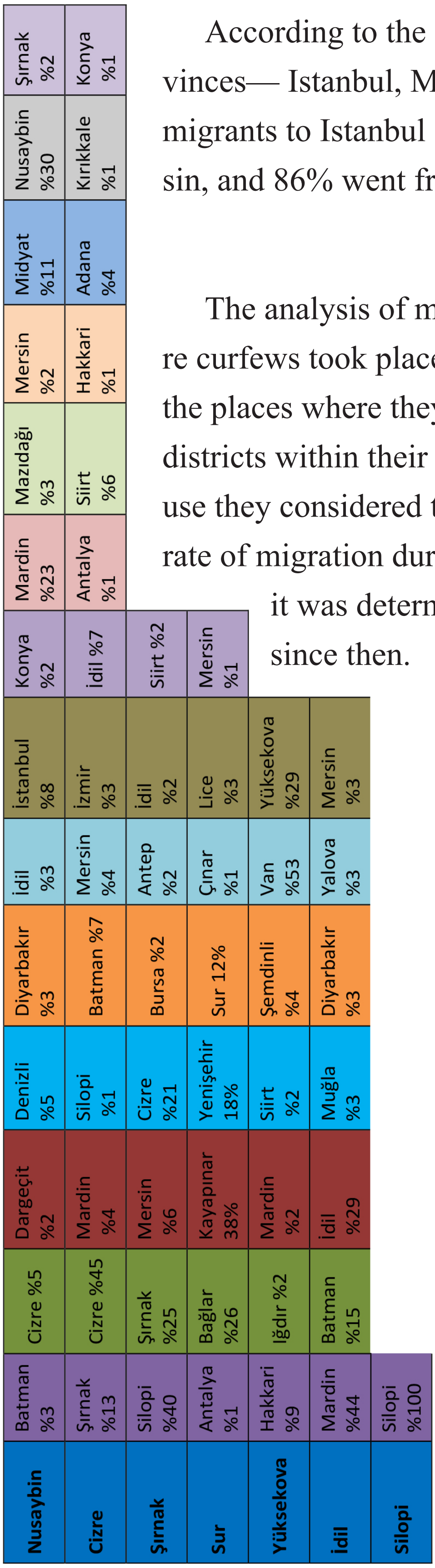
A sample of places where forced migration took place: 19% in Yuksekova, 18% in Cizre, 17% in Diyarbakir, 17% in Nusaybin, 15% in Şirnak, 8% in Idil, and 7% in Silopi.

Chart 48 **Direction of migration: sending and receiving provinces**

Van	Yüksekova %86	Şırnak %14			
Mersin	Yüksekova %21	Şırnak %7	İdil %7	Cizre %36	Nusaybin %29
İstanbul	Yüksekova %43	Silopi %7	İdil %7	Cizre %14	Nusaybin %29

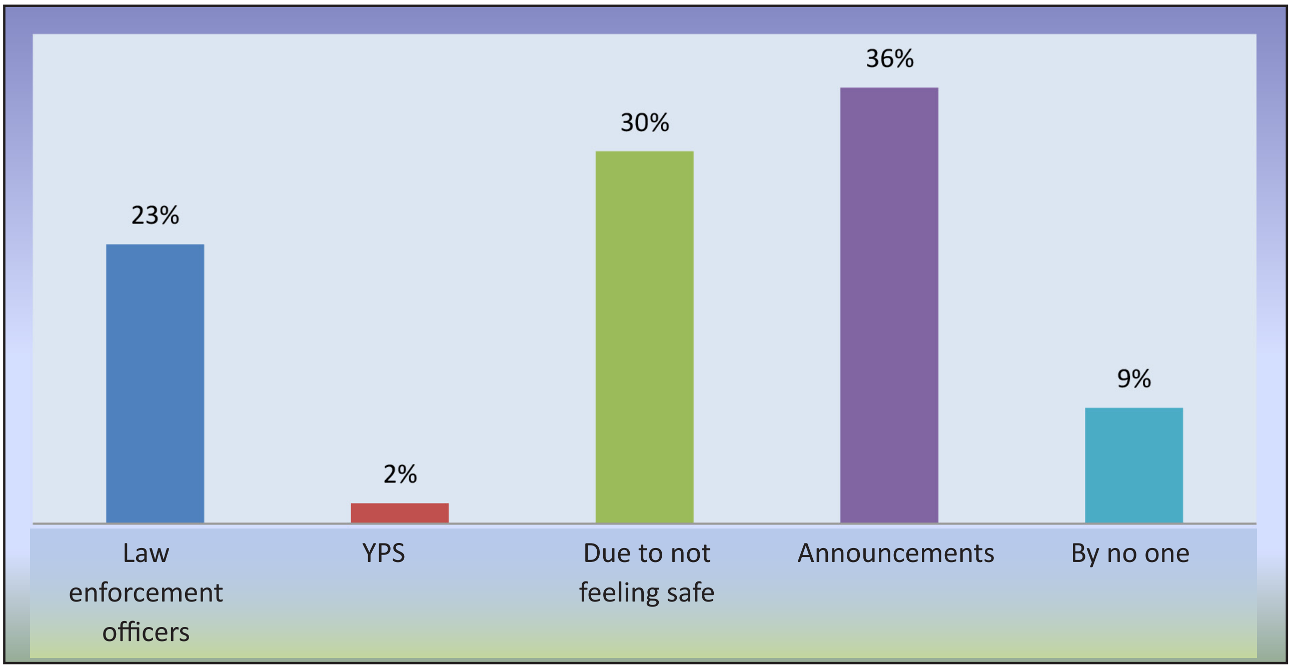
According to the chart of provinces that received migrants, three provinces— Istanbul, Mersin, and Van—received 53% of all migrants. 43% of migrants to Istanbul came from Yuksekova; 36% went from Cizre to Mersin, and 86% went from Yuksekova to Van.

The analysis of migrations during certain periods of time in places where curfews took place, reveals that migrants did not go too far away from the places where they were originally located. They migrated to cities / districts within their provinces for socio-economic reasons, but also because they considered their new places of residence temporary. Although the rate of migration during the curfew period was 94% among the interviewed, it was determined during the interviews that the majority returned since then.



Nusaybin	**Cizre**	**Şırnak**	**Sur**	**Yüksekova**	**İdil**	**Silopi**
Batman %3	Şırnak %13	Silopi %40	Antalya %1	Hakkari %9	Mardin %44	Silopi %100
Cizre %5	Cizre %45	Şırnak %25	Bağlar %26	Iğdır %2	Batman %15	
Dargeçit %2	Mardin %4	Mersin %6	Kayapınar 38%	Mardin %2	İdil %29	
Denizli %5	Silopi %1	Cizre %21	Yenişehir 18%	Siirt %2	Muğla %3	
Diyarbakır %3	Batman %7	Bursa %2	Sur 12%	Şemdinli %4	Diyarbakır %3	
İdil %3	Mersin %4	Antep %2	Çınar %1	Van %53	Yalova %3	
İstanbul %8	İzmir %3	İdil %2	Lice %3	Yüksekova %29	Mersin %3	
Konya %2	İdil %7	Siirt %2	Mersin %1			
Mardin %23	Antalya %1					
Mazıdağı %3	Siirt %6					
Mersin %2	Hakkari %1					
Midyat %11	Adana %4					
Nusaybin %30	Kırıkkale %1					
Şırnak %2	Konya %1					

Chart 49 **How were they informed about the need to leave?**



36% of the participants stated that they had received announcements telling them to leave the places where they lived; 23% stated that they were informed by law enforcement officers; 30% stated that they migrated due to anxiety.

"We did not leave. We were staying in our basement with one of our neighbors. We stayed there for almost 2 months, we got really depressed. We did not have enough water and food. We were really furious. We were not able communicate with our neighbors to see whether they were alive or not. We could hear announcements 'Armenians, leave your houses or we will burn them.'"

"They made announcements that we had to leave: "If you do not leave, we will destroy your house and kill all of you." My children cried when they heard these announcements. That's why we left, otherwise we wouldn't have left."[162]

"No one asked us whether we were staying in our houses. No one knew about this. We learned about the curfew from a neighbor. While we stayed there, we were beaten, we saw torture and we decided to leave."[163]

---

162 Nusaybin, age 55

163 Nusaybin, age 36-49.

“We were victims from both sides, we do not know who had started it. Two sides came… we became victims.”[164]

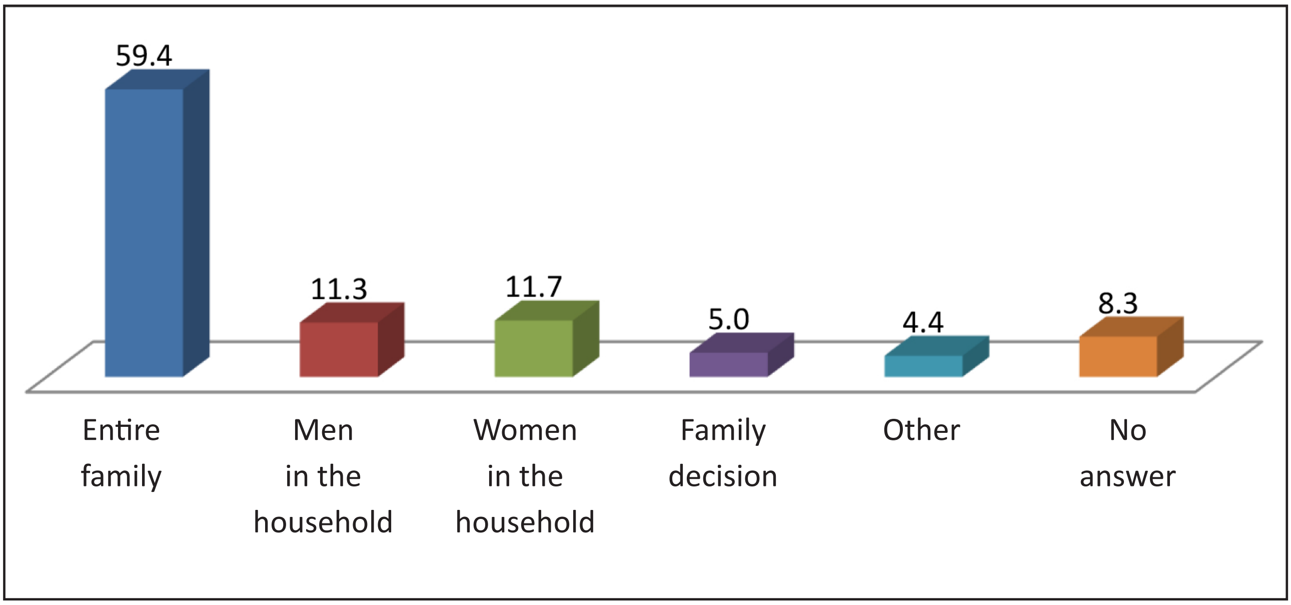
“They were saying, “Leave your houses, we will destroy them, we will kill you.” We had no bread, electricity, or water. We had nothing, so we had to leave. Migration was not nice, we left but we were forced to. The government told us, ‘Leave your place or we will kill you.’[165]”

“We left our house because we had heard that soldiers were connected to ISIS. I was not afraid of being killed, I was afraid for my honor.”[166]

---

[164] Yuksekova, age 40.
[165] Idil, age 55.
[166] Cizre, age 24.

Chart 50 **Who made the decision to migrate**



59% of the participants stated that they had taken a decision with all family members about migration; 12% said that the decision had been taken by women; 11%—by men in the family. Children's fear was indicated as an important factor in the decision to migrate.

"I decided to move, I had a newborn and 3 children of school age. I was afraid. My husband did not leave, he stayed here."[167]

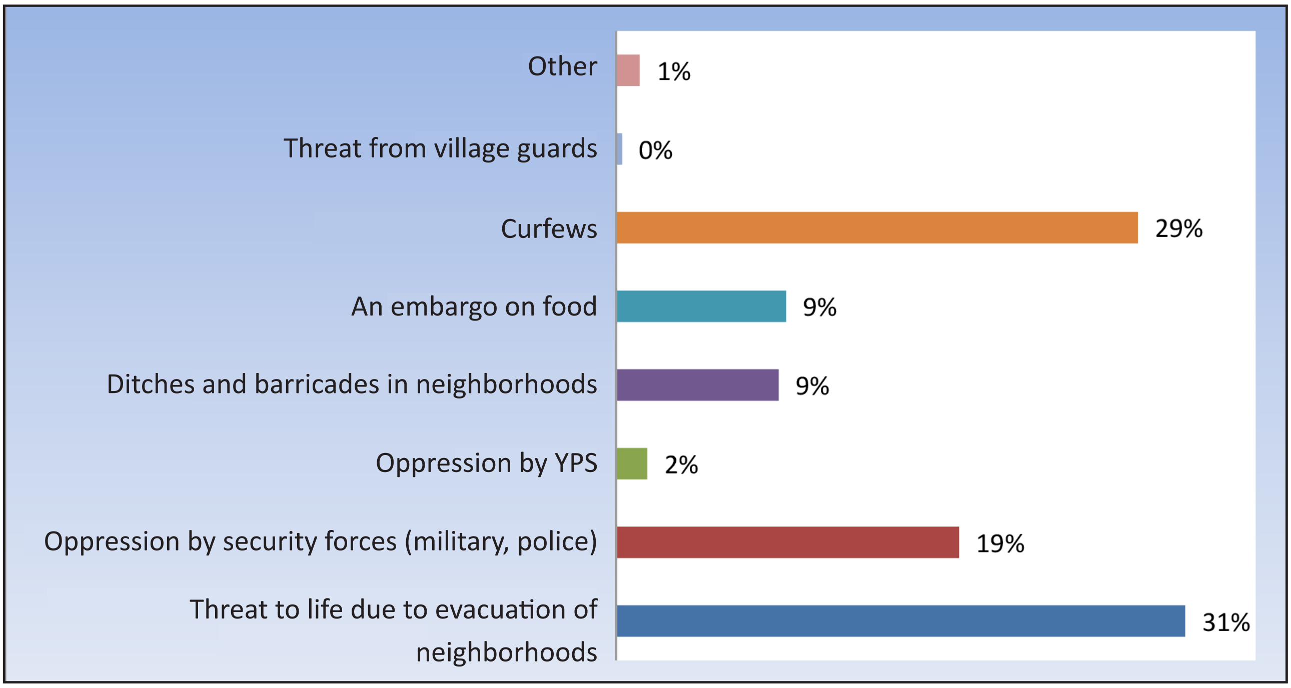
"My children and I decided together."[168]

"Neither I nor my husband made this decision. My son who died a martyr told us, "Go, or they will kill you too."[169]

---

167 Yuksekova, age 40.
168 Idil, age 55.
169 Idil, age 36.

Chart 51 **Reasons for migration**



Among the primary reasons indicated by those who had to migrate were threat to life due to the evacuation of neighborhoods where interviewees lived (31%); curfews (29%); pressure by the security forces (29%).

The UN, in its *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, notes that National authorities have a primary duty and responsibility to ensure the protection of internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction:

"Principle 7, 1 - Prior to any decision requiring the displacement of persons, the authorities shall examine all possible options available to prevent displacement in its entirety. In the absence of any option, all necessary measures are taken to minimize displacement and minimize its adverse effects.

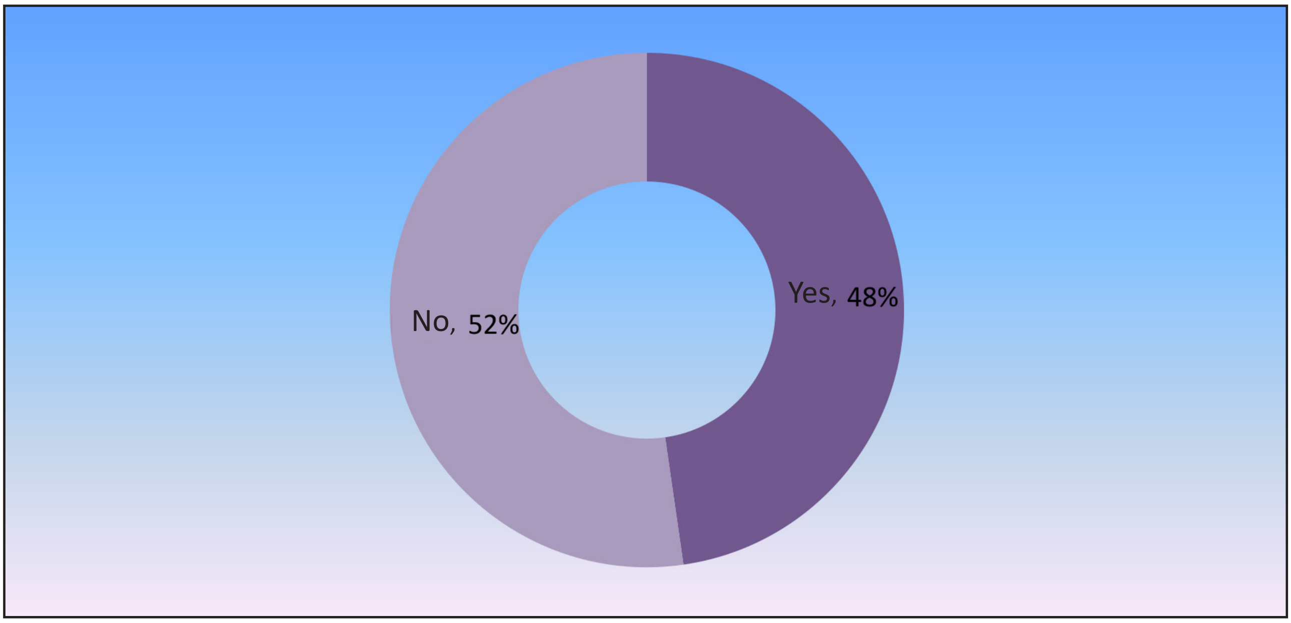
2- The authorities performing such displacement shall ensure that, in the best possible manner, appropriate accommodation is provided to the displaced persons, ensuring that such displacements are adequately provided with adequate safety, food, health and sanitation conditions, and without separating the members of the same family.

Principle 9 – States are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, migrants, pastoralists and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their land."[170]

---

[170] Guidelines for Guidance on Internal Displacement, United Nation.

Chart 52 **Was any aid received during migration?**



52% of the participants did not receive any assistance during the migration process; 48% received some help.

Displacement authorities are obliged to provide the best possible conditions for displaced persons: a suitable place, adequate safety, food, health and sanitation conditions and to ensure that the members of the same family are not separated from each other.[171] International conventions to which Turkey is a party contain many provisions related to safeguarding all kinds of socio-economic rights of those displaced within the country. More than half of the participants of this study stated that they did not receive any aid during the migration process.

"Municipality helped us a lot. They provided us with food, water, they distributed bottled water because they thought tap water might have contained some chemicals."[172]

"We went to a hot spring and remained there 8 months. Everyone went somewhere, we separated into 3 families. I stayed with my husband there. We were miserable there. There were many wild animals and snakes there and it was so hot. No one asked about our situation. District governor was helping us. He paid our rent; my daughter attended school. He sent 300 children to school. He was a very good person."[173]

---

[171] Guidelines for Guidance on Internal Displacement, United Nation, article 7 and 9.
[172] Idil, age 36.
[173] Şirnak, age 47

“No one helped us. We did not accept state aid, but sometimes, when we got hungry, we did accept. They did not give us anything when we went to Mardin.”[174]

“They did not help us at all, they did not pay our rent, I swear to God, they did not give us anything.”[175]

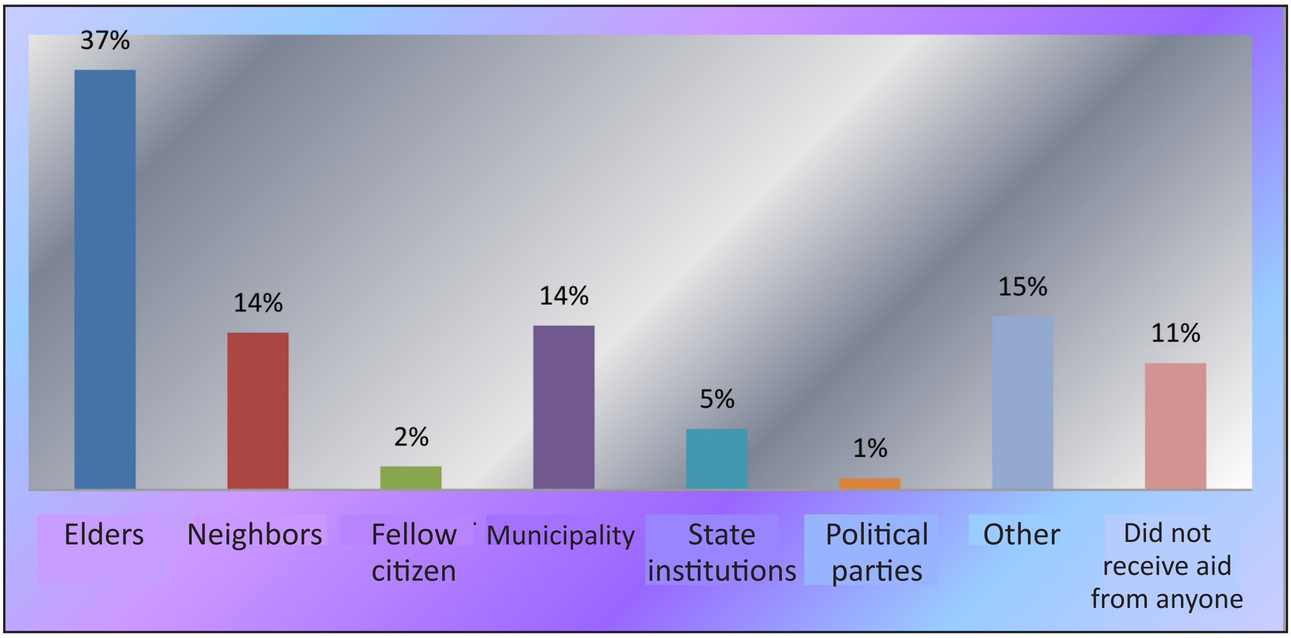
“No one helped us, we did not even get food.”[176]

“We did not want any help from anyone, at least we were in our own house, no one helped us. Municipality did not help us. Do not let them destroy our cities, everything has passed, is over. We are alive, thanks to God. Everybody experienced hardships.”[177]

---

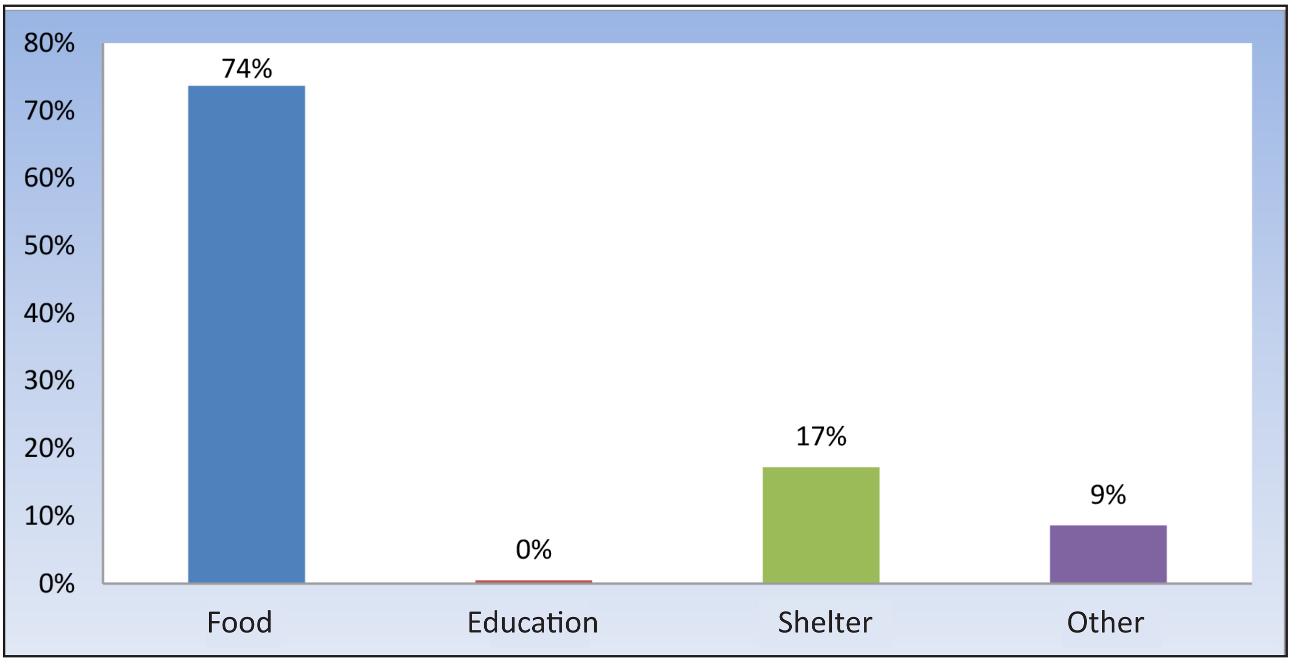
[174] Nusaybin, age 55.
[175] Nusaybin, age 50-64
[176] Idil, age 55.
[177] Şirnak, age 58.

Chart 53 **Individuals or institutions that were asked for help related to problems experienced during migration**



37% of the respondents first asked their families for help; 14% — neighbors and municipalities; 5% stated that they asked government institutions for help; 11% of the participants stated that they did not get help from anybody. The participants also stated that the state institutions did not provide any social assistance and even prevented incoming aid during and after the conflicts. In 2016, many non-governmental organizations were shut down with state of emergency decrees. This situation affected families who had to migrate, and the assistance provided by civil society organizations was limited.

Chart 54 **The types of aid received**



74% of 210 participants who stated that they had received assistance during the migration process received food aid; 17% —housing allowance; 9% indicated other types of aid.

All persons who have been subjected to forced displacement have the right to adequate living; "authorities, irrespective of circumstances, need to provide internally displaced persons at least with basic food and drinkable water; basic shelter and housing; suitable clothing; basic medical assistance and sanitation and ensure that displaced persons can safely access these facilities".[178]

Some women stated that they did not find food aid safe, as some of the products were expired or damaged. As observed in the interviews, this circumstance undermined trust between aid organizations and displaced persons who received food aid.

"I received a sack of flour from municipality when I was in my village. But I think its date was expired, no one could eat it. Kumcati municipality sent aid to the village of Kumtepe. Only think of it: we did not have any vegetables for days. They sent us some food, but we could not eat it. For example, we were afraid to eat rice because it didn't smell good, we dumped bulgur, everything was rotten. We could not eat anything."[179]

---

[178] Guidelines for Guidance on Internal Displacement, United Nation, article 18.
[179] Şirnak, age 39.

“We couldn’t be sure about the foods at home. They might have added something to it, who knows.”[180]

“We felt like beggars because of bad quality and expired foods.”[181]

---

[180] Yuksekova, age 40.
[181] Diyarbakir, age 18-28.

4.4. Post-Migration

Chart 55 **Material damages that occurred during migration**

	Yes	No	No answer
House and household goods	93%	7%	0%
Vineyard-Garden-Field	50%	49%	1%
Workplace	38%	62%	0%
Transportation vehicles	17%	83%	0%
Animals	32%	68%	0%

93% of the participants stated that their home and belongings were damaged; 50% had their vineyards, gardens or fields damaged; 32% reported that their workplace was damaged; 17% had their transportation vehicles damaged; 32% stated that damage was done to their animals (sheep, goats or cows).

The participants, whose home and belongings were damaged, reported that when they returned to their places of residence, they experienced financial difficulties such as having to rent houses or buy new things. In addition, they stated that, after the return, they were also affected psychologically because of the damage done to their homes and belongings.

There were violations of both national and international conventions in this regard. Everyone has the right to private property in accordance with Article 35 of the Constitution and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights. It can be seen that there was a high rate of violations of this right during the curfews.

"The state did not leave us anything, no doors, no windows, no TV, no plates. Not counting the building, the damages inside the house amounted to 50.000 Turkish Lira. We spent 300.00 TL for the building. By the time we returned, they burned some of our items, what they did not burn, they took outside, they slept inside, spilled oil, left dirt everywhere. We could not use anything. A bomb hit my bedroom and a wall collapsed."[182]

---

[182] Yüksekova, age 40.

“My house was destroyed, law enforcement officers left shit inside the house. I will never forget the fear in my children’s eyes.”[183]

……

“After we left, they destroyed our house, we stayed until the last minute and then left. They broke and burned our things. They fired at a window in our living room, it exploded, fell down on top of us.”[184]

……

“They broke all doors, including the building door, windows too. They left writings on every wall. They took our food. My father-in-law made a watch when he was in prison, it was beautiful; they took that too.”[185]

……

“We had a shop. We had to close it down because of the curfew. Then it was looted. It affected us tremendously in economic terms. Our house was damaged during the curfew. All our animals, our garden too. We lost everything.”[186]

……

“Our house was hit by a mortar, there was a hole. I told my husband that we would be killed that time. I cried and cried. My children called me, I told them that we would die that time. They were firing at us with guns, they would destroy our house.”[187]

……

“All our things were gone. We went to the municipality after the curfew. Our entire house was destroyed, and our things were gone.”[188]

……

“When we decided to migrate, our car was burned. We could not get help from anyone because everyone had their own problems.”[189]

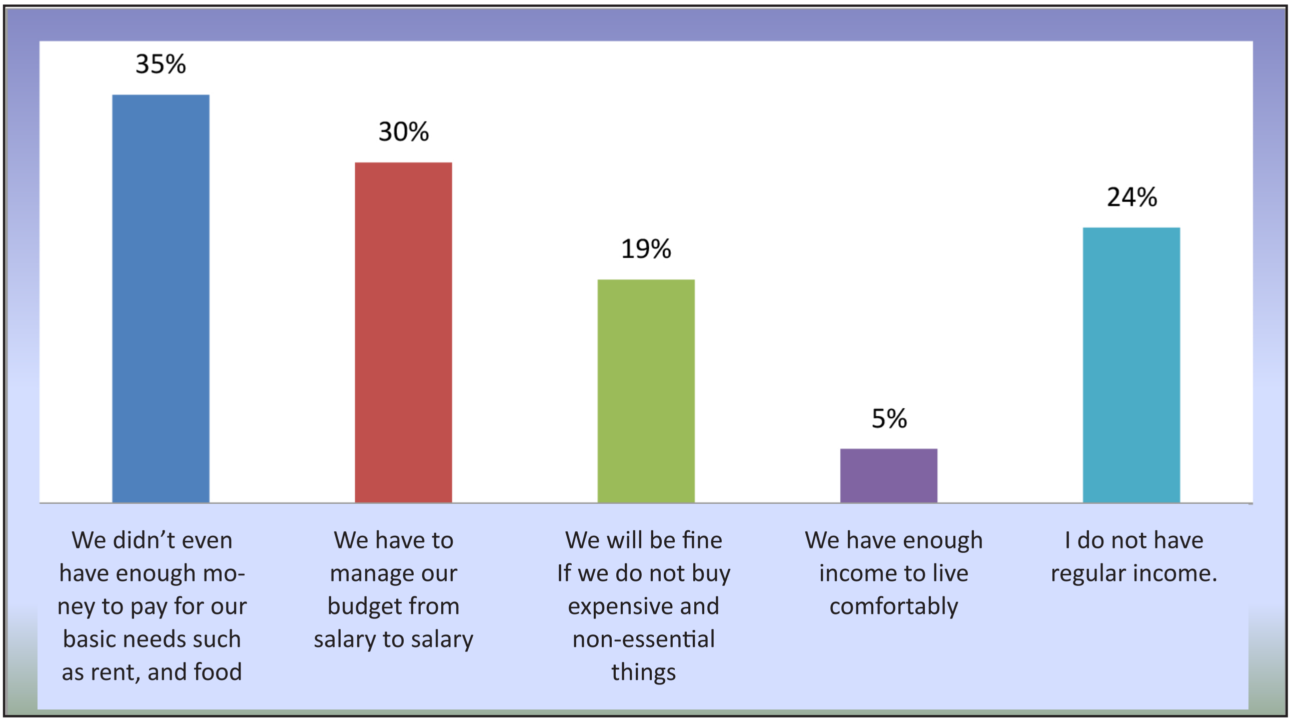
……

---

[183] Cizre, age 35.
[184] Nusaybin, age 55.
[185] Şirnak, age 36-49.
[186] Cizre, age 63.
[187] Nusaybin, age 50.
[188] Nusaybin, age 36-49.
[189] Cizre, age 25.

“We had just built our house, our things were brand new; that’s why we did not want to leave. This house was everything that we had. I worked very hard to build it. When we returned after the curfew, no one was there. We could smell blood everywhere. They broke our doors and our things, everything. Some of our animals were still there after the curfew, but they were in a terrible condition.”[190]

Chart 56 **Current material conditions of the household**



35% of the participants did not have enough economic resources to meet their basic needs; 30% reported having to manage their budget from salary to salary; 19% stated that they had enough resources to meet their *basic* needs. 24% of the participants stated that they had no fixed income; 5% stated that they had enough income to meet their needs.[191] As can be concluded from this data, 95% of the participants experienced some financial difficulties after migration.

“We can still survive with our neighbors’ help, but we are all poor.”[192]

“Our house was completely destroyed, our things are gone. People gave me some stuff, kitchen ware and such.”[193]

---

[190] Cizre, age 55.
[191] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.
[192] Cizre, age 18-28.
[193] Nusaybin, age 36-49.

"Our financial situation is normal. Of course, it is not like before. This crisis, as you know, was worse than previous ones."[194]

* * *

"My wife is blind and we get one pension every three months. We used to live under better conditions in the past. Before 1990s, we had land, sheep, then we sold everything to go to Idil. And now, they destroyed Idil."[195]

* * *

"We had a very long break from school, a whole year. We are 9 siblings in total. It is difficult to continue our studies. My father does not have a permanent job. This situation also affects us psychologically."[196]

* * *

"I am illiterate, I did not go to school. I have 1 daughter and 5 sons. I could not marry off my children because of financial difficulties."[197]

* * *

"Our home was destroyed, of course our things are gone too. My son used to work for the municipality, now no one works in the family."[198]

* * *

"I am sorry, my house is a mess. I have psychological issues. Without my neighbors I would die of starvation."[199]

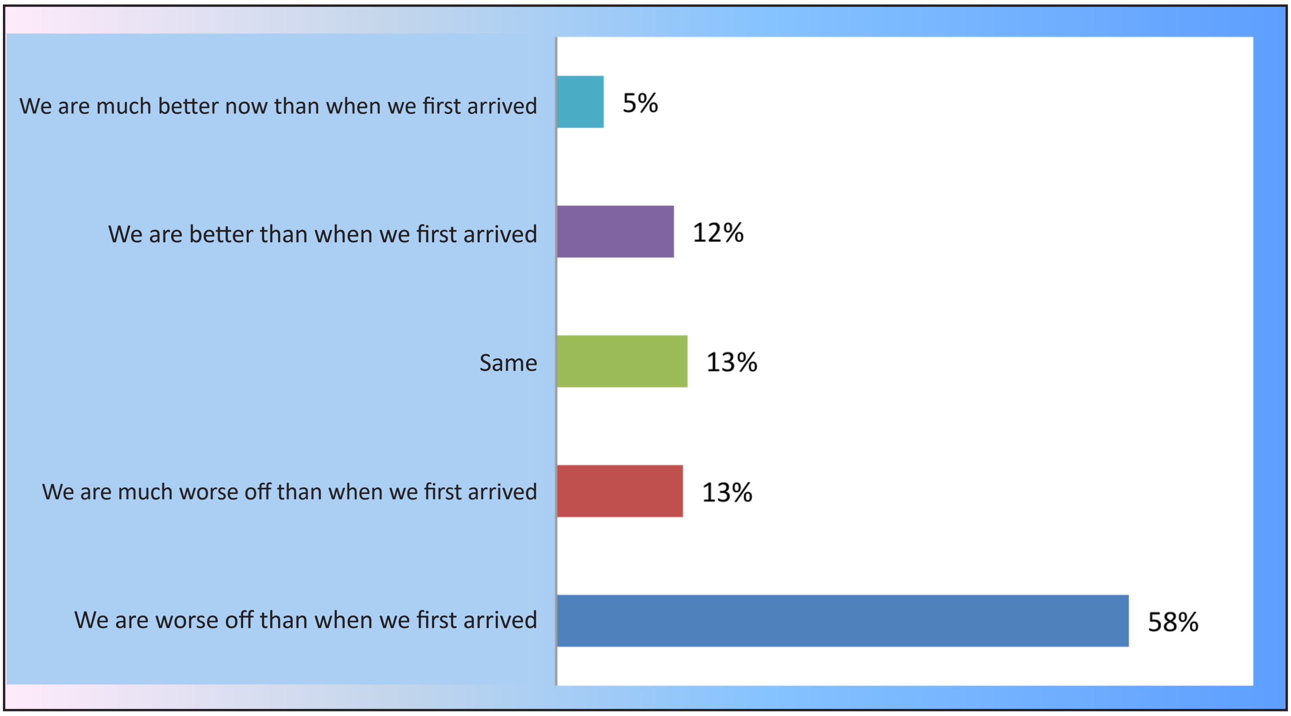
* * *

"I couldn't even take our slippers. We had bought new slippers for my grandson, but they were lost. When we were packing and ready to leave, he started crying for his new slippers. He cried for 20 days, then he forgot it. We had no food or water; we had to buy everything in the place we went to. We were 50 people living together. We had to leave our own place, and then we had difficulties in the new place, both materially and spiritually. When we came back, our house and animals were burned."[200]

---

[194] Yukseova, age 40.
[195] Idil age 55.
[196] Sirnak, age 19.
[197] Nusaybin, age 55.
[198] Idil, age 55
[199] Istanbul, age 29-35.
[200] Cizre, age 50.

Chart 57 **Comparison of financial situation during the early period of migration and the current period**



71% of the participants thought that their current economic conditions were worse / much worse compared to the past; 17% reported their current situation as better / much better; 13% stated that there was no change. The comparison of the first and last period of displacement shows that the financial situation of the participants has become worse. The participants in the interviewed households stated that there were significant differences between their pre- and post-conflict income situations. In addition, long-term curfews in the region prevented many from working during long periods of time, especially in informal sectors, which resulted in significant economic losses for the households.

"Before the curfew we used to receive my husband's disability benefits. When the curfew started, these payments were cut."[201]

"Our situation is worse now, our neighborhood was destroyed, we used to be happy in our neighborhood."[202]

"At least we had a house to protect our heads in Nusaybin, they took it from us."[203]

---

[201] Diyarbakır, age 50-64.
[202] Nusaybin, age 55.
[203] Istanbul, age 29-35

“We get by from salary to salary. I did not receive help regularly, I did not get it more than once.”[204]

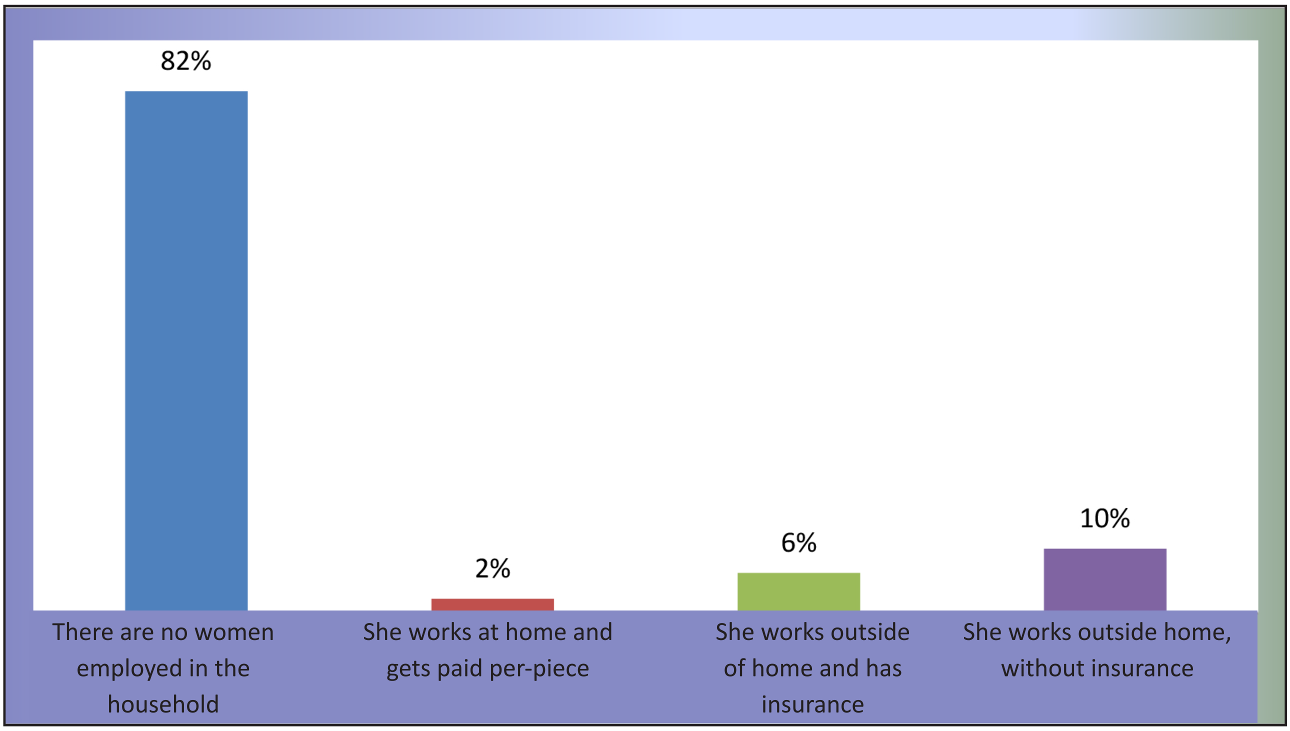
“We came to Silopi after the curfew was lifted. We went to Batman from Adana, we rented a house and stayed there. My sister was also there, they would help us from time to time. What could we do, there was no bread, we would buy it ready-made, we didn’t have any money either, suddenly we were in need and it was winter. What could we do?”[205]

---

[204] Şirnak,age 25

[205] Silopi, age 56.

Chart 58 F**amily members (women) who started working after migration**



82% of the participants stated that there were no women in the household who started working after migration; 10% said that women worked in jobs without insurance; 6% had a job with insurance; 2% stated that they did piece work from home. There were also young women who had left school and have started working as seasonal workers after the curfews. The participants stated that job opportunities, already scarce due to the destruction of the places they had lived in, had almost disappeared. Even though 3 years have passed since the conflicts, it can be concluded that the authorities have not yet made an effort to incorporate women into working life.

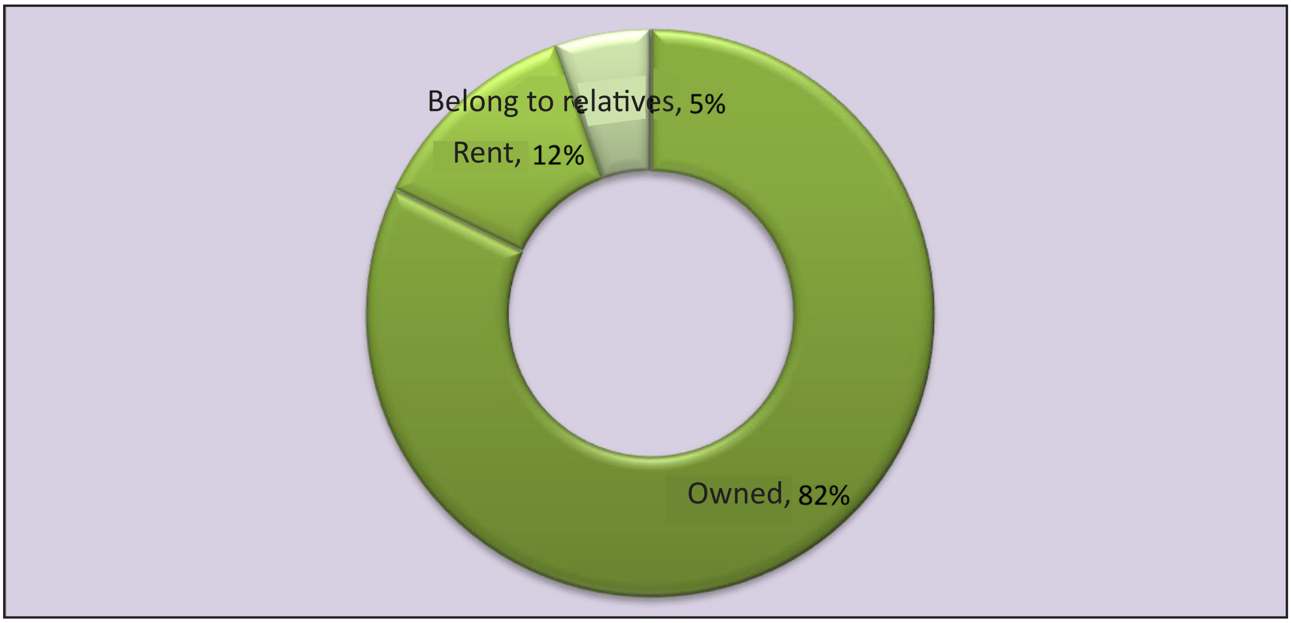
"Nobody receives a salary in our family, my two children are working. I too, sometimes, go to a restaurant to work. Our financial situation was better before the migration. We had a house, garden, and animals. There was a working woman in the family, my daughter, who is in prison now, she used to work. I used to own a house but now I live in a rented house."[206]

"I was working before the curfew. But after the curfew, I could not go to work, I had psychological issues for a while. Our household goods were damaged. Social life is not as before, I do not go outside as often. When it gets dark, I still get afraid that all things could happen again."[207]

---

206 Idil, age 36.
207 Cizre, age 19.

Chart 59 **Information about housing situation before migration**



82% of the participants stated that they had their own property before the curfews; 12% were tenants; 15% lived in their relatives' houses.

"We had already migrated in the 1990s. They burned our villages, they were throwing bombs around the village. We fled away, then came back. We came here years ago but now there is a war again! They have destroyed our house."[208]

……

"They destroyed our house, they destroyed it. Actually it was my brother-in-law's house, it was not our property."[209]

……

"They cheated us in Syria, we were in a bad situation there. We came from Kamişlo. They were killing children in Syria, many of my neighbors' children were killed. We fled in order to save our children, it was 3 am when we fled to come here. Here we became miserable. They helped us, they give us food, clothes and everything in Nusaybin. We had stayed 7 years here and they told us that we could stay as long as we wanted. After a while we decided to rent a new house. They demolished the house."[210]

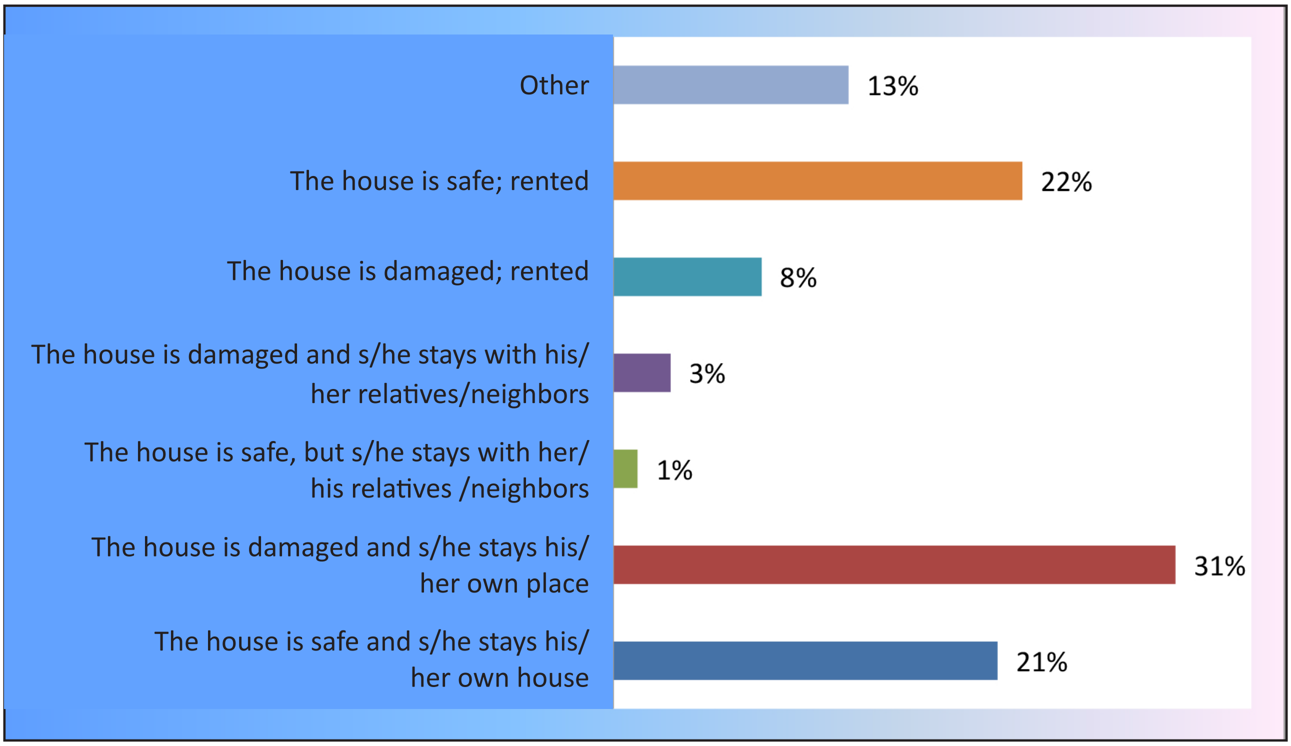
……

"None of us is working, this house belongs to us. It's damaged."[211]

---

[208] Idil, yaş 55.
[209] Nusaybin. Yaş 55.
[210] Nusaybin, age 36-49.
[211] Şirnak, age 58.

Chart 60 **Information on housing situation after migration**



31% of the families, participants of this study, who had to migrate during the curfews, continued staying in their homes even though they were damaged; 21% are staying in same place as their houses are intact; 22% stated that although their house were intact, they started living as a tenant in another house.

"This house belongs to us. Our house is damaged. They looked at the outside of the house, not inside. They did not pay us anything for internal damage. Only this house remained, all other houses are marked and will be demolished."[212]

"After the curfew was lifted, we could not go back for a while, for a month or so, we searched for a house to rent and rented one. Several times we came back secretly and looked at our things, trying to get them. This house is not ours, I would buy a house if I were able to. Now they say that we have to leave the house. We will stay and see what God will show."[213]

"We stayed on the streets and slept on the cartons in front of stores, we had nothing left. There was no one to accommodate us. We rented this basement after they cleaned the place. My house was hit by a rocket."[214]

---

[212] Şirnak, age 58.
[213] Nusaybin age 50-60.
[214] Diyarbakır, age 60.

"We said that our house shouldn't be demolished. If we had demolished it, it would be lost forever. Many of those who had demolished their houses regret it now. Because neither did the state pay them, nor could they rebuild their houses."[215]

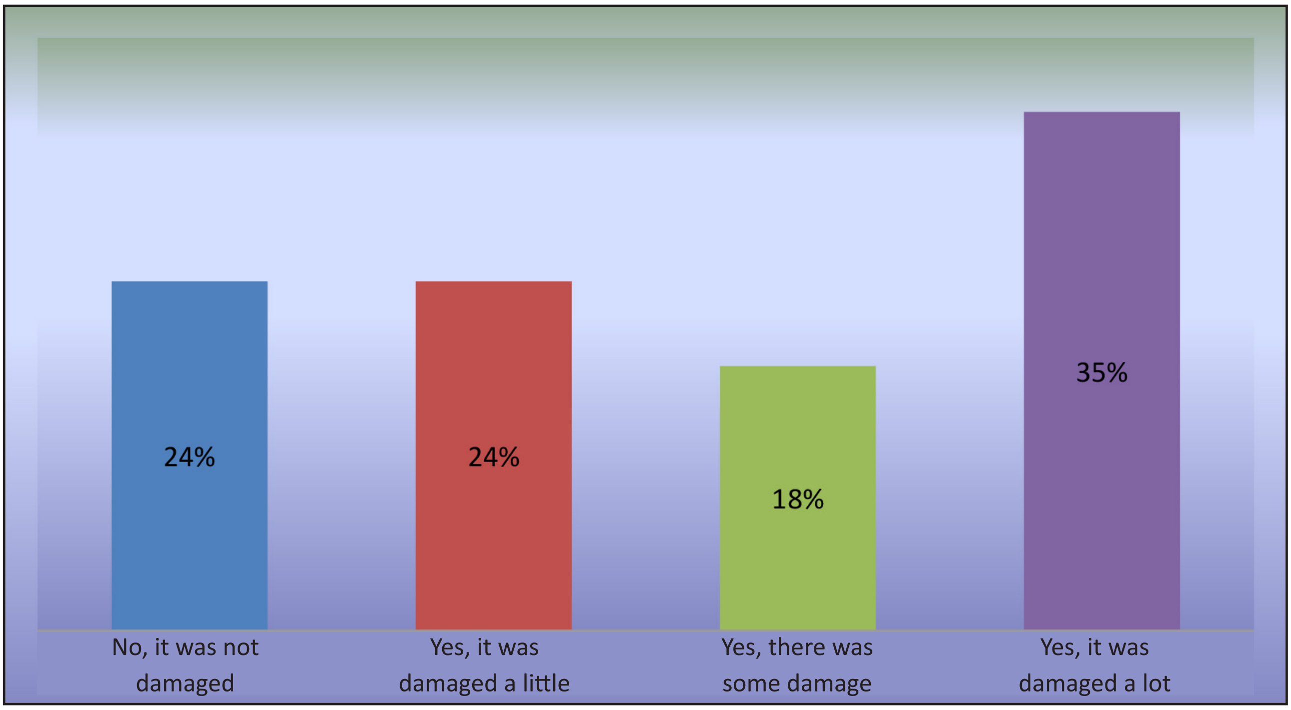
"We ran away, we did not take anything with us. We rented a house, we did not have any money and struggled a lot. I no longer have a husband, two houses, a shop, all our things, everything is gone. There were shells everywhere."[216]

"We have nothing left, what should we do? They did not even give me any money for my demolished house, my shoes, my things, nothing ... I want to get what I am entitled to."[217]

---

[215] Yüksekova, age 40.
[216] Silopi, age 56.
[217] Diyarbakır, age 60.

Chart 61 **Damage done to the participants' houses**



35% of the participants stated that their homes were found to be severely damaged in a damage assessment survey conducted after the curfews; 24% of the participants' houses were found to be less damaged; 18% were found to be moderately damaged; 24% stated that no damage assessment was conducted for their houses. In the interviews, it was determined that some of the participants continued living in moderately damaged or heavily damaged houses.

"I had a very good life in Sur. They decided to demolish my husband's shop."[218]

"I had a garden, a cow, they were burned. They offered us a small amount of money that we did not accept. They wanted to demolish our house, but we did not accept it. Then the state came and said, "We will demolish it," still we did not accept, made a petition. We had just built this house, it was our everything, we told them not to demolish it. And the state did not do anything—so that's how much damage we had."[219]

"Our house is damaged, but the state neither demolishes nor repairs it."[220]

---

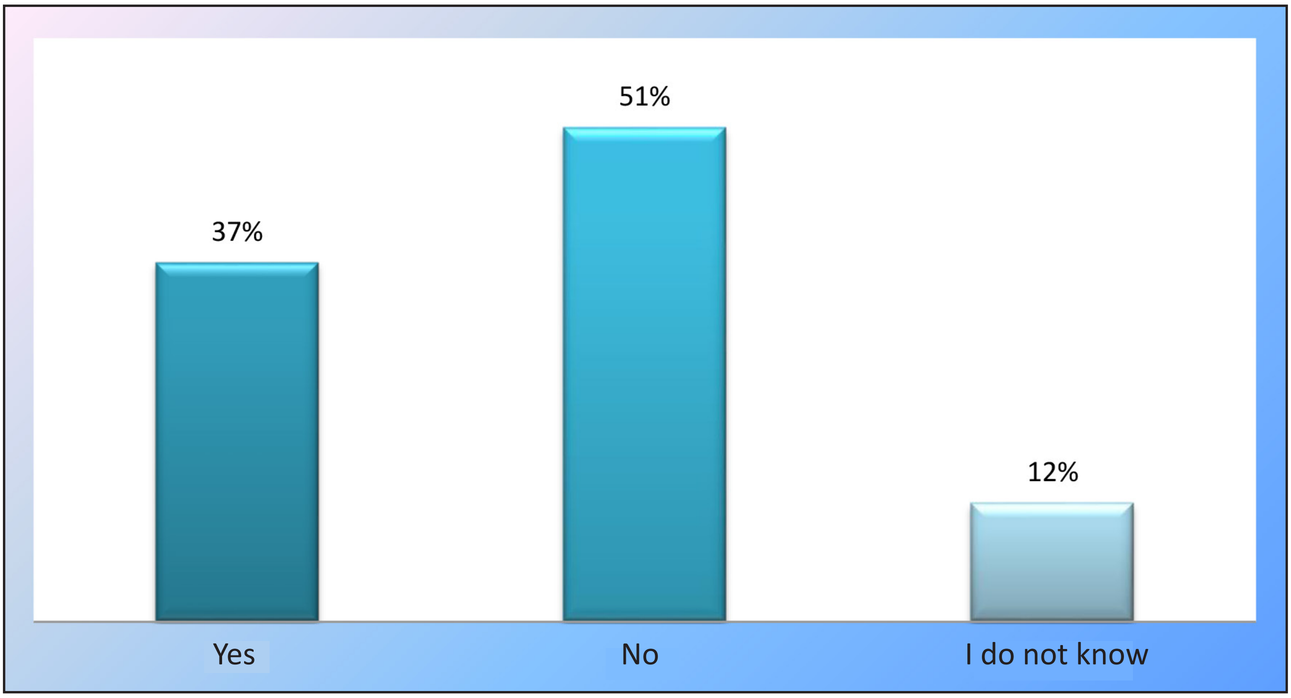
[218] Diyarbakır, age 36-49.
[219] Idil, age 55.
[220] Cizre, age 63.

“I do not want to deal with the state at all. My two children are sick and have to be treated. But I do no have means to do it… Our house is still severely damaged.”[221]

“We said our house is damaged, they came, took pictures, but they haven’t come back, haven’t returned.”[222]

“They came to estimate the damage of my father-in-law’s house. He told them, “Go to the people whose houses were burned, we are fine.” I am mad at him. They should help everybody, they’ve ruined our lives! I said that I only knew what I had experienced.”[223]

Chart 62 **Was there a decision to demolish the participants’ houses?**



51% of the participants stated that there was no decision to demolish their house; the decision for demolishing was made for 37% of the participants; 12% stated that they do not have any information about the demolition of their houses. From the interviews it can be concluded that some participants whose houses were demolished or for whose houses there was a decision for demolition are hesitant to move to new houses or did not want to move. In addition, after the conflicts in some cities or districts (Sur, Idil, Şirnak, Cizre), the Council of Ministers declared certain areas as risky and started demolishing damaged and undamaged buildings without local people's permission and without providing any information.

---

[221] Cizre, age 44.
[222] Şirnak, age 21.
[223] Cizre, age 34.

"State officials made damage assessment. We did not accept anything anyway. They decided to demolish the house, they destroyed it. They killed my son. I told them, "I do not want your help after my son's death."[224]

"They will destroy the house, they will build TOKI apartments instead [public housing built by Housing Development Administration of Turkey]. They started demolition. These days it has been interrupted. They sent me a letter [from TOKI], but I will never live in a TOKI apartment. I would rather live in a tent. I do not want to. How could I live in those apartments, how could I stand it, I am suffering great pain, how would I live in a TOKI apartment? I remember bodies of the dead people who were killed here. They all died here, where did their children go? I will set up a tent here, like the nomads used to do, but I will never live in a TOKI apartment."[225]

"They decided to demolish our house, it is not very solid, but we still have to live in it. It shakes from time to time."[226]

---

[224] Idil, age 36.
[225] Nusaybin, age 50-64.
[226] Cizre, age 47.

Chart 63 **Cross-table of housing information before and after migration**

	Owned	Rented	Belongs to relatives
House is safe/ staying in his/her own place	23%	17%	21%
House is damaged/staying in his/her own place	36%	13%	31%
House is safe but staying with neighbors or relatives	1%	8%	1%
House is damaged /staying with neighbors or relatives	2%	13%	3%
House is damaged /renting a place	6%	0%	8%
House is safe but renting a place	21%	33%	22%
Other	11%	17%	13%

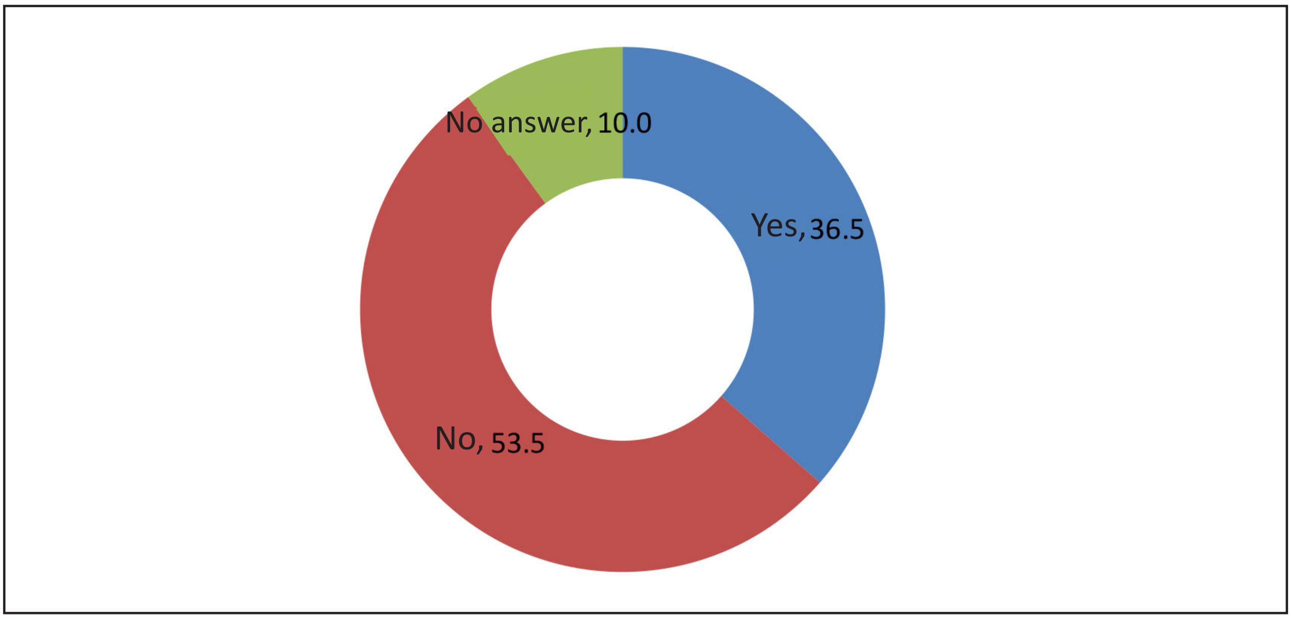
36% of the families living in their own homes before the curfews continued living in them, even though their houses were damaged. 21% rented a different place even thought their houses was intact. 23% continued living in the same place after migration because their houses were intact.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

According to *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 7*: *adequate housing right: forced evictions* (Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Convention), women, children, youth, elderly, local people, ethnic and other minorities and other vulnerable individuals and groups are subjected to disproportionate forced evacuation practices. Women in all groups are particularly at risk of being exposed to violence and sexual abuse when they are homeless, considering legal and other forms of discrimination in regards to property rights (including those related to home ownership) or rights of access to property or accommodation; therefore, they form a particularly vulnerable group.

The provisions of Article 2, paragraph 2 and Article 3 of the Convention on anti-discrimination impose extra obligations on governments to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ensure that there are no forms of discrimination in cases of evictions. Forced eviction and housing demolitions as a criminal measure also contradict the norms of the Convention. In the same way, the Committee takes into account the obligations imposed by the 1949 Geneva Convention and also by its Additional Protocols of 1977 on the eviction of civilian populations and the destruction of private property, which is related to forced eviction practices.

Chart 64 **Information about childbirth that occurred or was witnessed during blockades and after migration**



The rate of birth that occurred during and after the blockade, reported in the study, was 36.5%. The participants who were pregnant or knew someone pregnant stated that they were not able to access health services during the blockades and that, for this reason, they were faced with various problems (miscarriage, bleeding). One of the women interviewed reported that she was three months pregnant when she had a miscarriage during the curfew. She reported that, after the miscarriage, the baby had remained in her belly for 7 days as she could not go to a hospital. Since then, she had experienced high pressure, heart and psychological problems.

"We put some pillows in front of the windows. Several of our neighbors were pregnant, but they could not go to see a doctor."[227]

"When we decided to migrate, our car was burned. We could not get help from anybody, because everybody had problems just like us. That's why we had to walk to Kizilsu Village from Cizre. I was pregnant then. We were a target of bullets then, we could have died at any moment."[228]

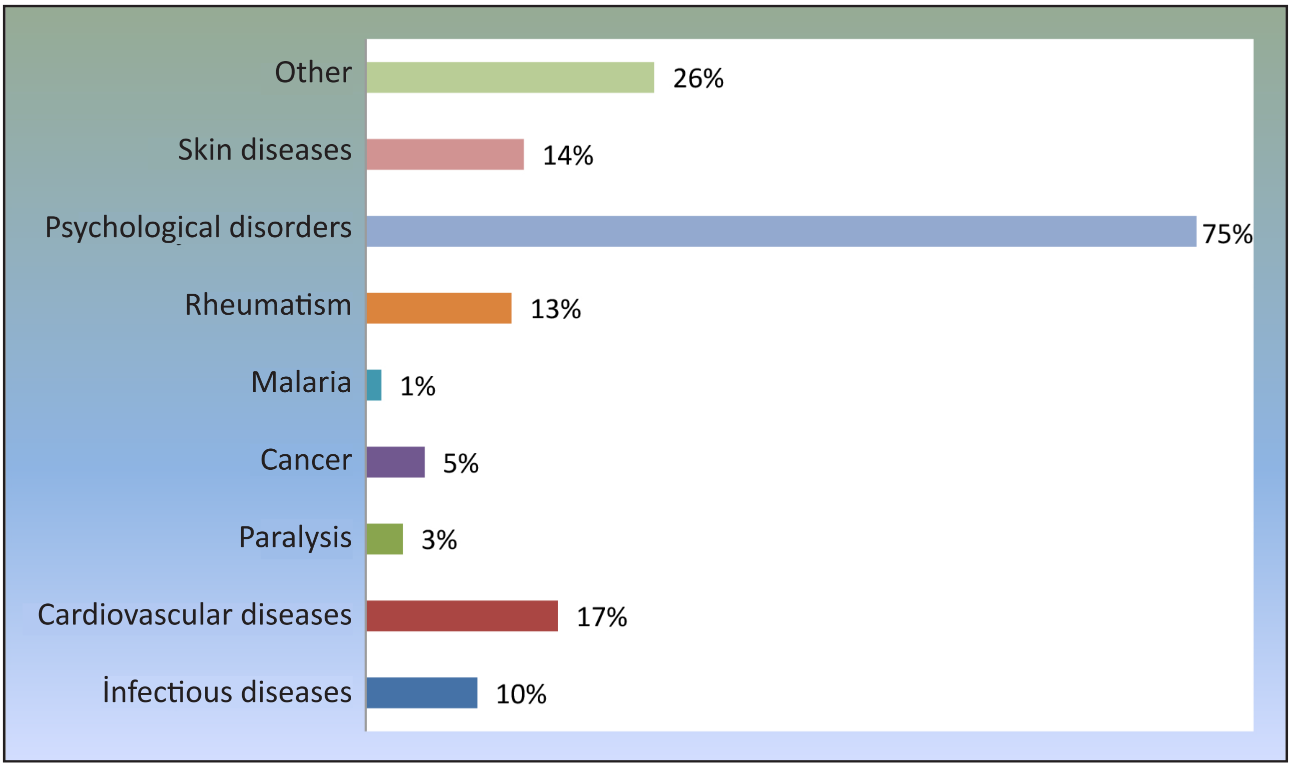
"I had a lot difficulties during the pregnancy. I was far away from my family. I was depressed… I had some communication problems."[229]

"At that time I was pregnant, I was going to give birth, it was really difficult." [230]

---

[227] Nusaybin, yaş 55.
[228] Cizre, age 25.
[229] Şirnak, age 26.
[230] Silopi, age 32.

Chart 65 **Health problems that have occurred or have been witnessed**



75% of the participants experienced some sort of psychological issues during curfews.[231]

"The situation of my partner deteriorated and passed away two months ago. While everyone cries for themselves, we, Kurds, cry for our land and our people."

……

"My children stayed in a dark room for a month, after which we had to leave Cizre, the pressure and insults that we were faced with at checking points and in the province we migrated to, affected us greatly. Everywhere was full of bullets and bombs. We almost lost our minds, having experienced all of this."[232]

……

'"I will never forgive, those who forget the destruction and pressures they experience are contemptible. When we came back to Cizre, there were ruins everywhere, my sister was depressed. My mother was in despair, we had already been staying in my mother's one-room apartment, everything was there. When we migrated to Kasrik, we had a lot of problems there. As to neighborhood relations and friendships, everything was affected. My sibling quit the school and is no longer going to school."[233]

---

231 Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.
232 Cizre, age 36
233 Cizre, age ?

“My grandchildren were going crazy because of fear and sound. We went to Batman. They would wake up saying, “Mom, I am so afraid!” They wouldn’t say anything else.”[234]

……

“During the curfew I got very sick, I stayed in a hospital for 20 days, I was depressed. I’ve risen from the dead. I am very depressed nowadays.”[235]

……

“I was born and grew up in a new neighborhood. When I came back to the neighborhood it was still intact. They hadn’t destroyed the buildings yet. I would sit in this balcony in the morning with my sibling. The neighborhood, they’ve demolished it completely [since then]. I have been really depressed.”[236]

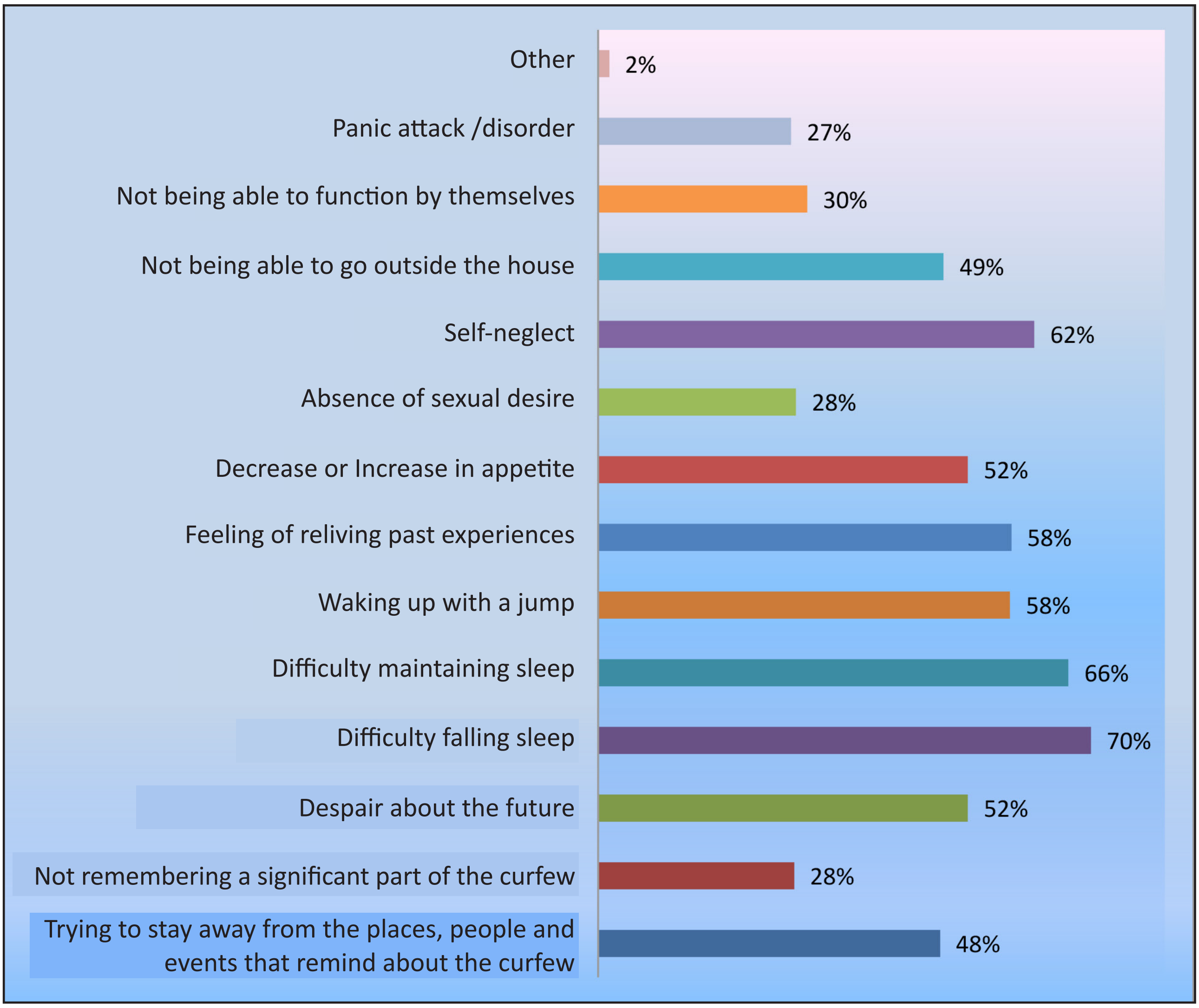
---

[234] Idil, yaş 55.

[235] Idil, age 55.

[236] Şirnak, age 39.

Chart 66 **Psychological problems that have been experienced**



During and after the blockades, 70% of the participants had difficulty falling asleep; 66% had difficulty maintaining sleep; 62% experienced a decrease in self-care; 58% reported waking up from sleep and the same amount reported reliving the same moment over and over again; 52% reported feeling hopeless about the future.[237]

"After I witnessed many deaths during this process, I got divorced, my children were staying with their father, I could not touch them after the blockade, they no longer see me as their mother." [238]

Post-traumatic stress disorder includes such symptoms as increased anxiety level, avoidance of trauma-related stimuli (attempts to stay away from trauma), and increased stimulation. The person may have repetitive memories of an event and nightmares.

---

237 Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.

238 Diyarbakır, age 36-49.

A situation or stimuli reminiscent of the event can cause significant psychological or physiological disturbance (e.g. a gunshot that reminds one of war). Behaviors such as avoidance of stimuli may be exhibited. Some people, to avoid any reminder of the event, may try to avoid everything. An interviewee in Nusaybin said, “I don’t want to go back and have to remember those things because of the weight of what had happened to us.. I still cannot see those streets...”[239]

Some people avoid thinking about traumatic events and have only fragmentary memories of them. Individuals may also experience such symptoms of hyperarousal, including irritability or aggressive behaviors, unconcerned or self-destructive behavior, problems falling asleep or maintaining sleep, difficulty concentrating, over-alertness, and frustration. Other symptoms of PTSD are repetitive, involuntary and distressing memories of trauma; recurrent and distressing dreams related to the event; and dissociative reactions to the feeling of re-experiencing the event. Such symptoms as avoidance of stimuli symbolizing the event, the inability to remember an important aspect of the traumatic event, inability to operate alone, negative mood (feeling hopeless about future), constant alertness, concentration issues, hard time falling asleep or maintaining sleep were observed in or reported by the interviewees.

“I’m very angry at the state, I can’t go anywhere on the street. Every time I see the places I relive the blockade again and again… I was not afraid, not at all.. I am just frustrated because of the despair.”[240]

---

[239] Nusaybin, age 50-64.
[240] Cizre, age ?

Chart 67 **Non-pecuniary losses experienced during and after the curfews**

	Yes	No
Death of a relative	39%	61%
Injury / Disability	23%	77%
Family separation	73%	27%
Not being able to share one's experience	73%	27%
Fear of past experiences	95%	5%
Feeling of despair	90%	10%
Discrimination experienced in the place one had migrated to	44%	56%
Not being able to find peace In the place one had migrated to	60%	40%

During the curfews, 39% of 417 respondents lost their relatives; 23% of 394 respondents had injuries or disability; 73% of 404 respondents said that their families had been separated in that period; 73% of 412 respondents could not share their experiences; 95% of 421 respondents felt that they feared what they had experienced; 90% of respondents stated that they had a feeling of despair. 44% of 386 respondents who had migrated were facing discrimination in the place that they had migrated to; 60% of 397 respondents stated that they were not able to find peace in the place that they had migrated to.

"I was feeling very bad for my family, that they had to go through this situation. They stayed at home, they witnessed everything. They experienced fear, desperation, everything. My family is in Silopi now. They were stuck between two sides. I felt even worse for them. You are far from your home, you are far from your things. Whenever you are, you are a guest."[241]

……

"We, seven families, stayed in a basement, we were in despair, but we never lost hope. They raided the basement twice and told us to go out, said that they would burn Cizre. But we did not go out. They broke our phones, tore our books, they spat in our face."[242]

---

[241] Silopi, yaş 25.

[242] Cizre, yaş ?.

“While we were in Mersin, we were exposed to discrimination. After 3 months, we came back to Cizre. We had a fall out with our neighbors with whom we had eaten and drunk together before, like with family members. Then I really started hating Turks. [243]

“The death of my relatives had a huge impact on me, I am still depressed. The children were very afraid, even now, when they hear a noise, they shudder.”[244]

“My cousin was wounded. He was hit in front of the door, but we could not go out and take him inside. There was a hail of bullets in the air.” [245]

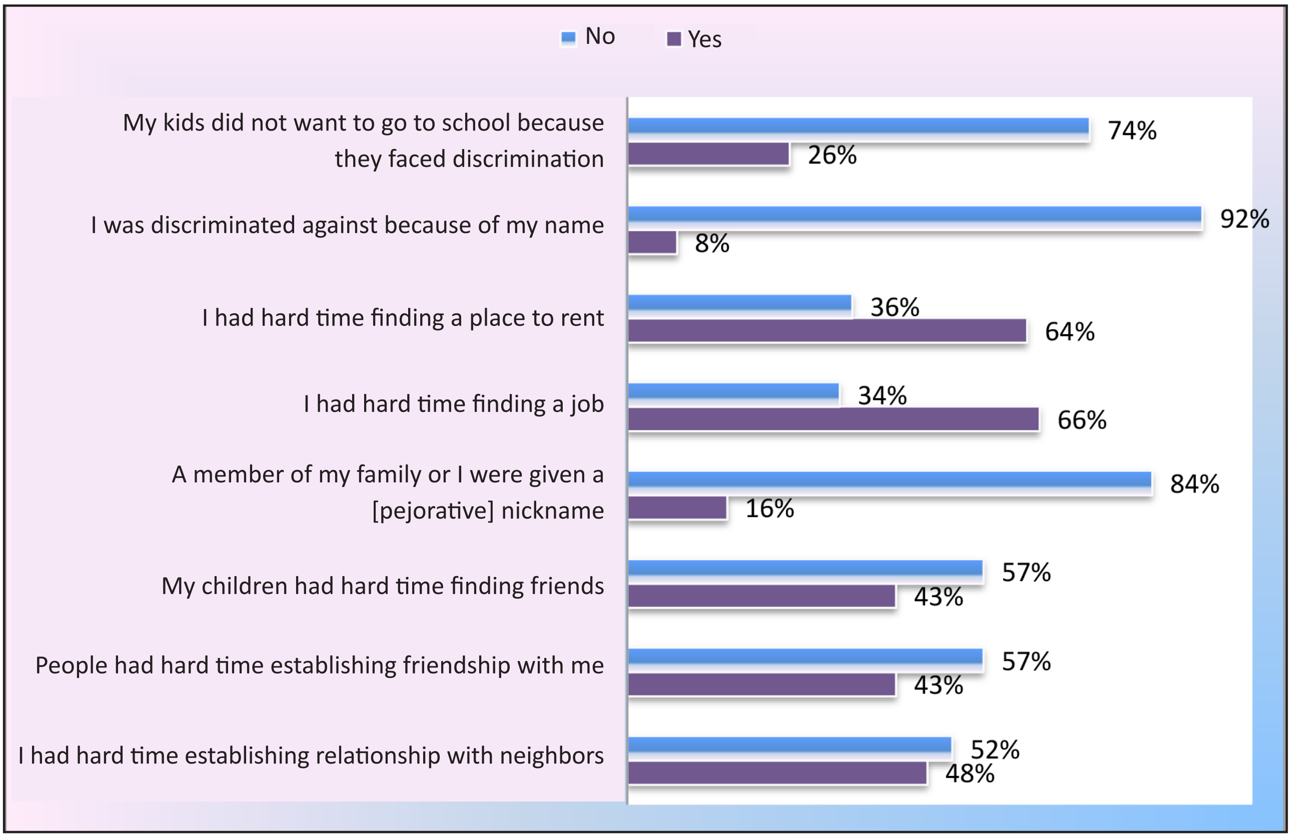
“We realized that the war was not ending, it was a war, we did not know what to do. The sound of bombs and artillery was becoming more and more frequent. They were firing at the house. We did not know what was going on in the city. In order not to hear the noise as much, we would put cotton in our ears. Once, we did not eat for 5-6 days.”[246]

“I take my children to and from school, they are girls, and I am afraid to send them there alone. The life was better before the clashes, all people were free, before the curfews we could be on the streets till the morning. But now life is not good, it was better before, honestly, now I cannot go outside the door. Unless I have something to do, I do not go outside. Before I could go anywhere, now I am afraid. I do not go outside.” [247]

---

[243] Cizre,age 29-32
[244] Cizre ,age ?
[245] Cizre,age 30
[246] Busaybin age?
[247] Nusaybin,age ?

Chart 68 **Was discrimination experienced in the place where you migrated to?**



Difficulties finding a job and place to live were reported as the primary pecuniary / non-pecuniary problem experienced by the families who were forced to migrate due to the curfews. 66% of the participants found it difficult to find a job; 64% found it difficult to find a place to live; 48% found it difficult to establish relations with neighbors; 43% stated that people were reluctant to establish friendship with them and that their children had difficulty making friends. 26% of the participants said that their children did not want to go to school because of discrimination; 16% reported being given pejorative names; 8% stated that they were excluded because of their names.

"My mother was in despair, we had already stayed in her room, everything was there. When we migrated to Kasrik, we had a lot of difficulties there as well. All of us were affected in terms of relationships with neighbors, with friends."[248]

"We saw all those beautiful children, all those young people gone. They all are under the earth now, I will never forget those days. Our relationships with neighbors are not like before, my children's friends are scattered as well, the children do not go outside."[249]

---

[248] Cizre, age ?.

[249] Nusabin, age 55.

"Our relationship with neighbors was really nice; I do not believe it will ever be the same. That is to say, we used to prepare tea together, we would bring it in front of the door and drink it with our neighbors. I do not think that it will be like that again. Now, I do not see my neighbor for days. There is no such thing as trust any more." [250]

"Children of our new neighborhood gave nicknames to my children. It was really difficult to find a house."[251]

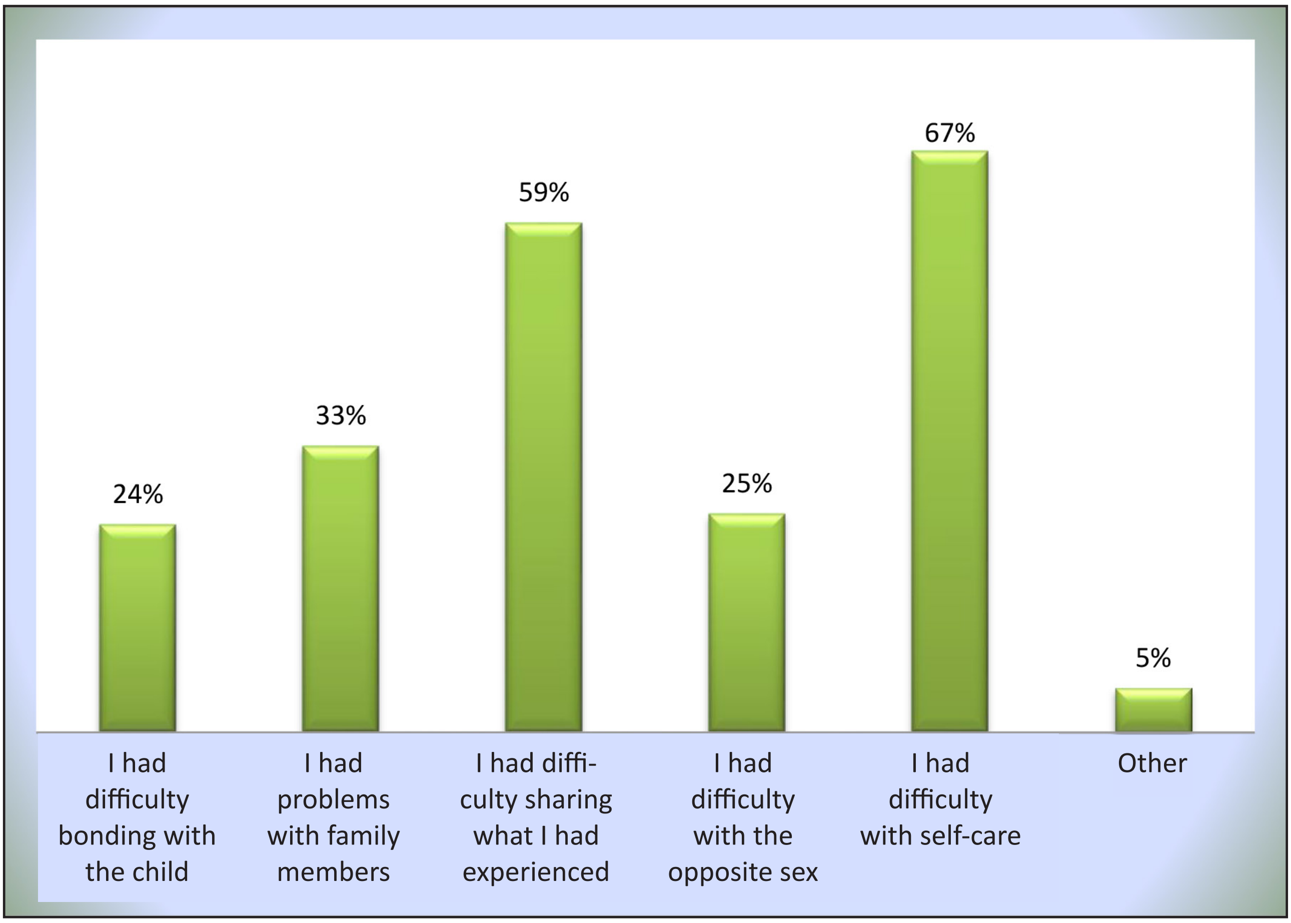
"My children did not have friends because one of them was small and the other three were in school. My children were not given nicknames, we did not experience something like that. But people said that since we had come from Yüksekova, we would make trouble there as well. We said that it wouldn't be like that. We could not find a job in Van, we could not work."[252]

"People from Van did not like us. They did not like people from Yüksekova. Otherwise everything was normal. They did not treat us as neighbors. For five months we were using the same door, but no one came to give us a greeting."[253]

---

[250] Şirnak, yaş 39.
[251] Diyarbakır, age 36-49.
[252] Yüksekova, age 40.
[253] Yüksekova, age 40.

Chart 69 **Conditions that made life more difficult**

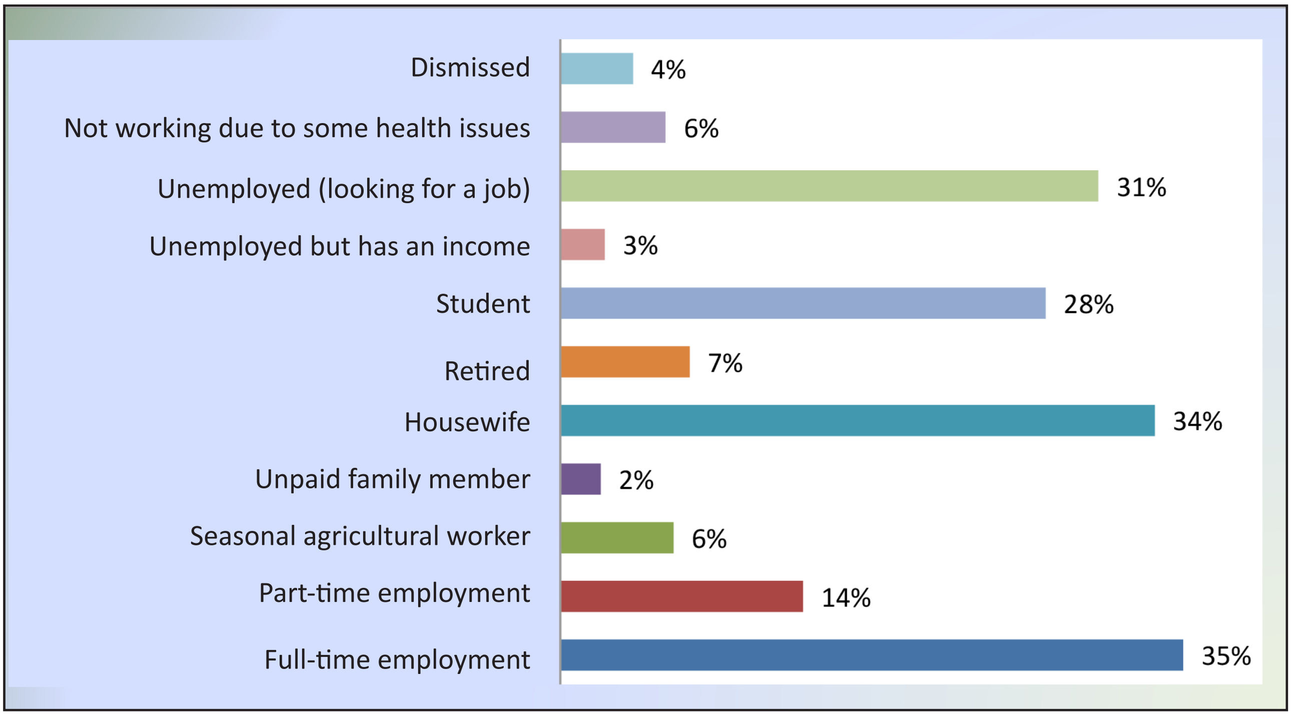


67% of the participants had difficulty with self-care after the blockades; 59% had difficulty sharing their experiences; 33% found it difficult to relate to their family members; 25% had difficulty communicating with the opposite sex; 24% stated that they had difficulty establishing the bond between mother and child.[254]

---

[254] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.

Chart 70 **Working status of others in the household**



35% of the participants stated that there were individuals working full time in their household; 31% reported that other members in the household were not working and were looking for work; were students (28%); or housewives (34%). [255]

"My brother had been a teacher for 29 years, he was dismissed. My other brother was a city official for 14 years, he also was dismissed. Two of my cousins had been guards for 8-9 years, both were dismissed too."[256]

"I am ill, I can't get treatment because of financial issues. My husband was a construction worker, he fell down from a building and now has some problem with his heel, that's why he can't work."[257]

"My husband has diabetes, he is not working. My younger children are in school. I need to go to Diyarbakir, to a hospital, my liver causes me a lot of pain, but I can't go."[258]

---

[255] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.
[256] Şirnak, age 39.
[257] Cizre ,yaş 34.
[258] Nusaybin, yaş 38.

“May god never test anyone with what we have experienced. Everyone was sacked. Such hardworking people do not have jobs.”[259]

“My husband is working in construction, this way we make both ends meet. He has no regular salary, paid day by day. Once he fell down and has already had 4 operations. But he must continue working.”[260]

“I have 11 children and half of them are seasonal workers, they go to pick up nuts. We haven’t yet dealt with the damages to our house, it shakes when we walk.”[261]

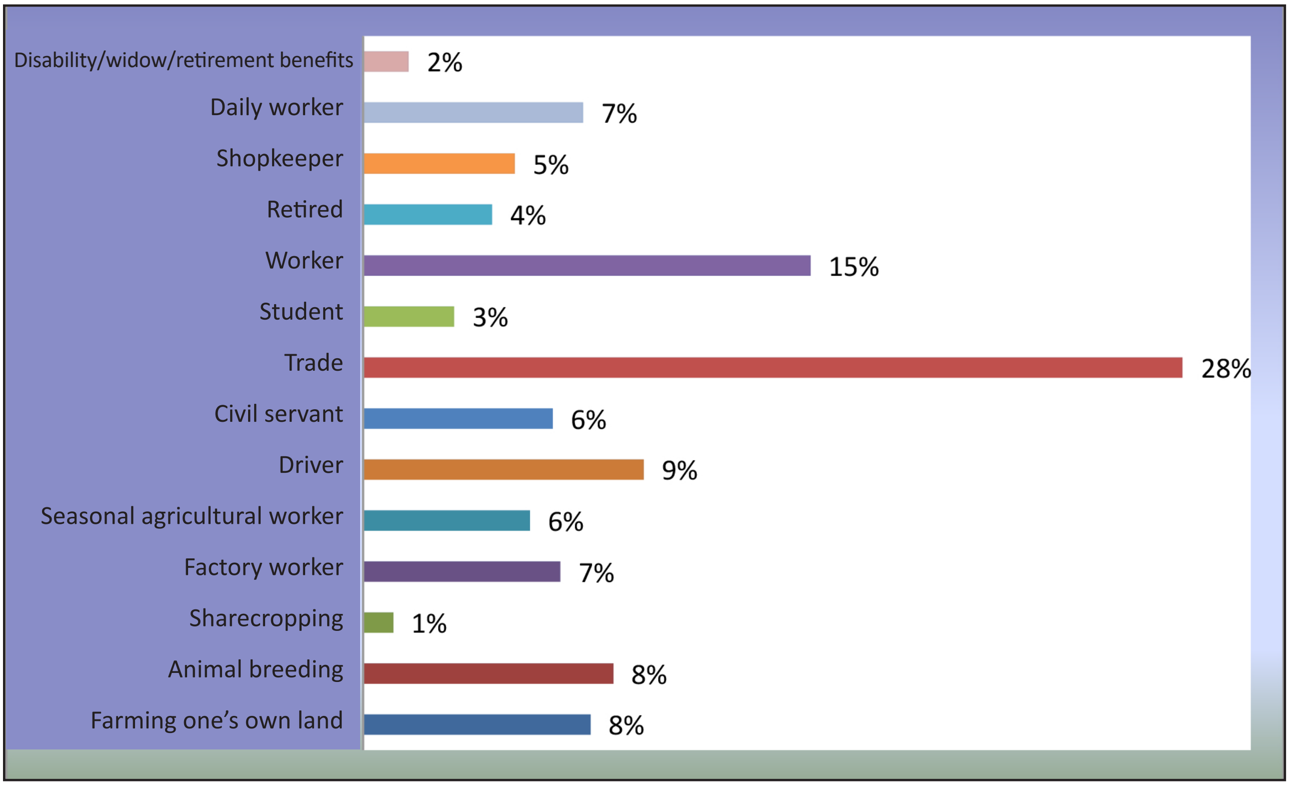
---

[259] Şirnak, age 39.

[260] Nusaybin, age 38.

[261] Cizre,age?

Chart 71 **Means of subsistence before migration**



28% of the participants stated that trade was the source of livelihood of the household before migration; for 15% the source was salary; 9% reported having a family member who worked as a driver; 8% were livestock breeders and the same percentage of participants stated that they provided their livelihood by cultivating their own land."[262]

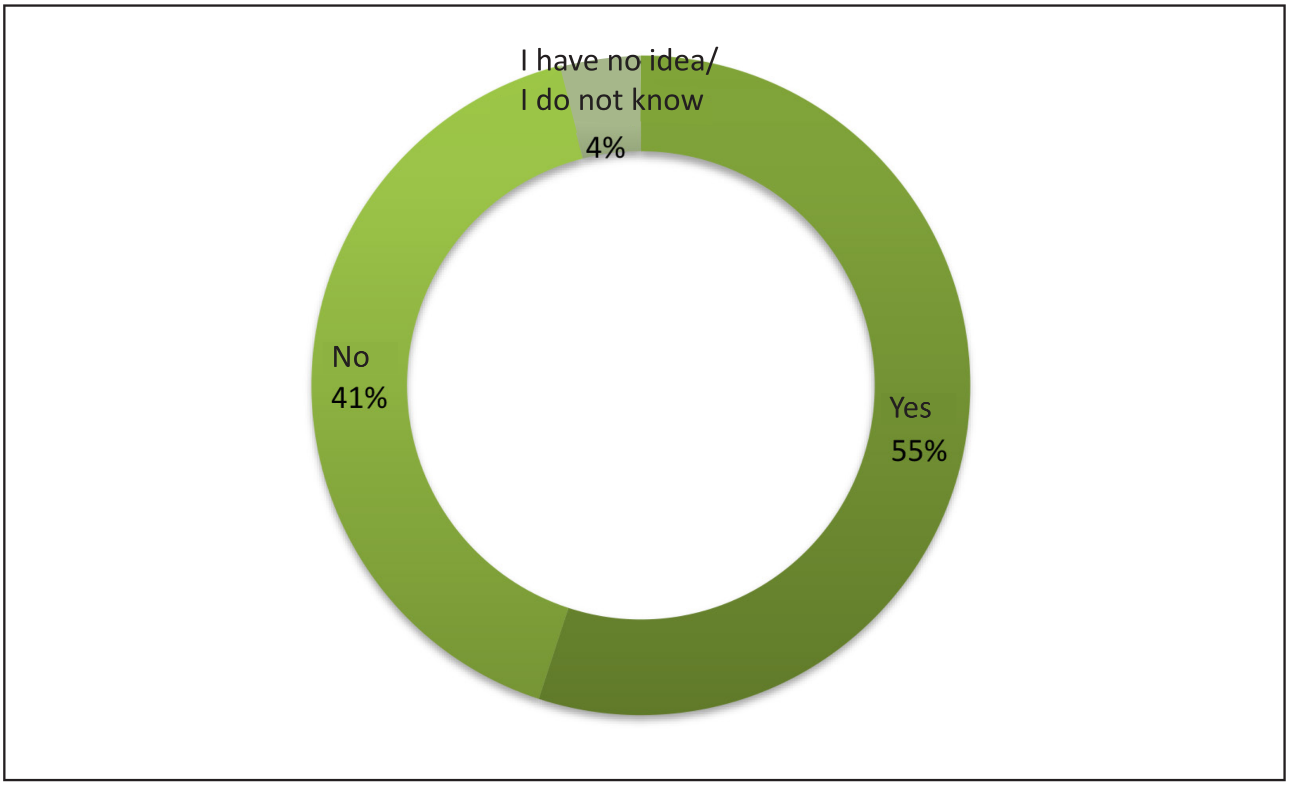
"Before the curfew I was receiving my husband's disability benefits. When the curfews began, they stopped paying my salary. I took my children and stayed with my husband in Idil until the curfew was lifted.[263]

"Our eight animals perished. Blankets, clothing, everything was burned. Our Qur'an, ID card, the vineyard were burned. The door was stolen. Everyone went in from the street. My children and I went together to the village. Our licensed gun was also burned. We are still in debt."[264]

---

262 Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.
263 Idil, age 50-64.
264 Cizre,age?

Chart 72 **Have you applied for compensation for the damages after forced migration?**



55% of the participants applied for compensation of the damages incurred during the curfews; 41% stated they had not started a legal process yet.

"When I applied, they said, "You do not have anything, so we won't give you anything.''[265]

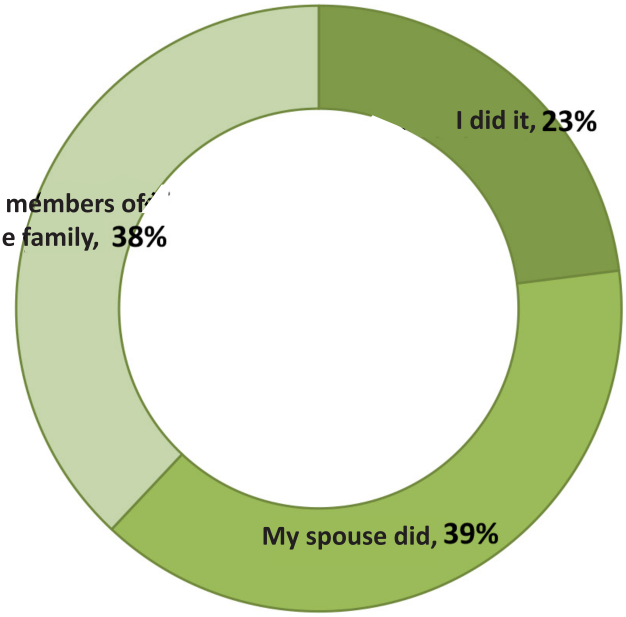
"We did not apply for the compensation for the house. They persecuted us so much, did so much injustice to us, what should we do, they continue doing the same, where should we apply? The state does not give us anything, does not apologize to us, so we won't forgive either, they destroyed our house, what can they give us? I have nothing else to say. May Allah relieve us from this persecution"[266]

---

[265] Cizre, age 32.

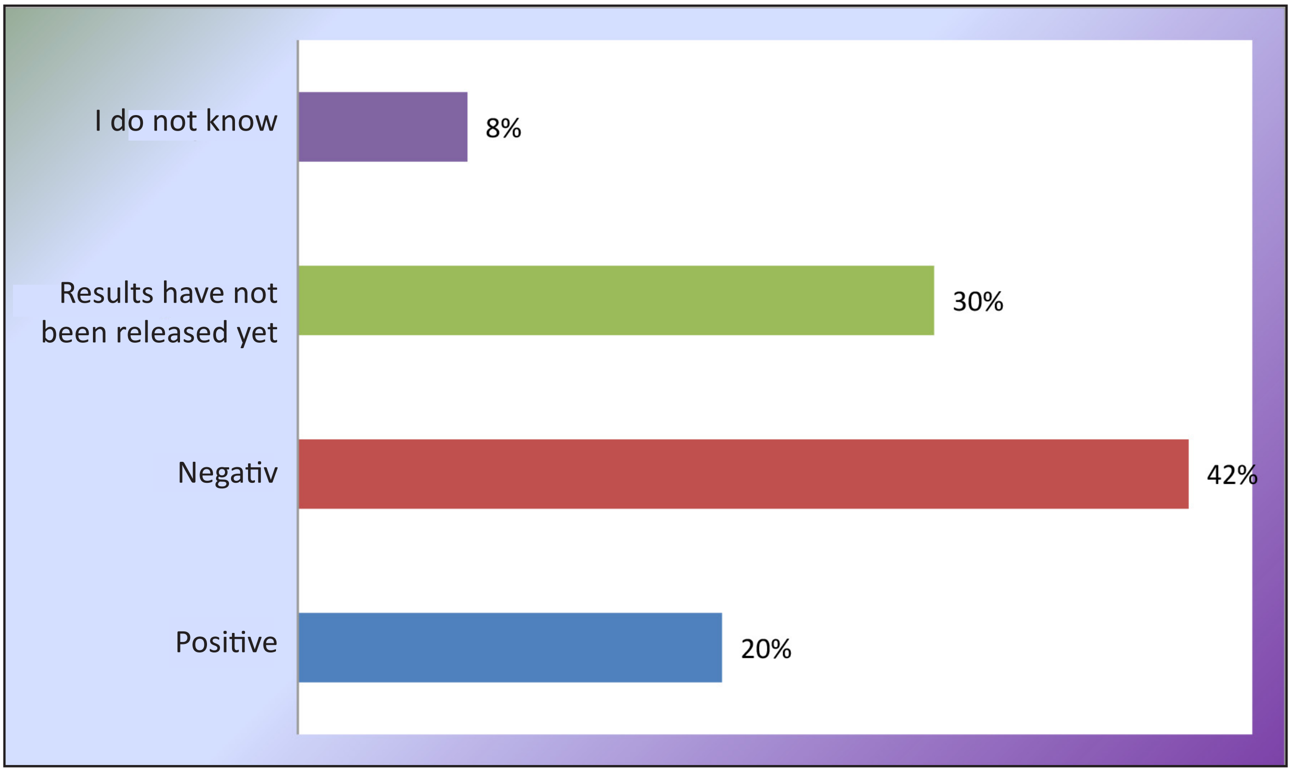
[266] Idil, age 55.

Chart 73 **Who prepared the legal application?**



39% of 240 participants reported that their husbands had prepared the legal application; 38% —other members of the family; 23% of the respondentsprepared it by themselves.

Chart 74 **Application results**



Applications of 42% of the participants were not accepted; 30% of the respondents are waiting; in 20% of the cases, applications were accepted.

"We filed an application, they gave us money, but it did not cover the damages."[267]

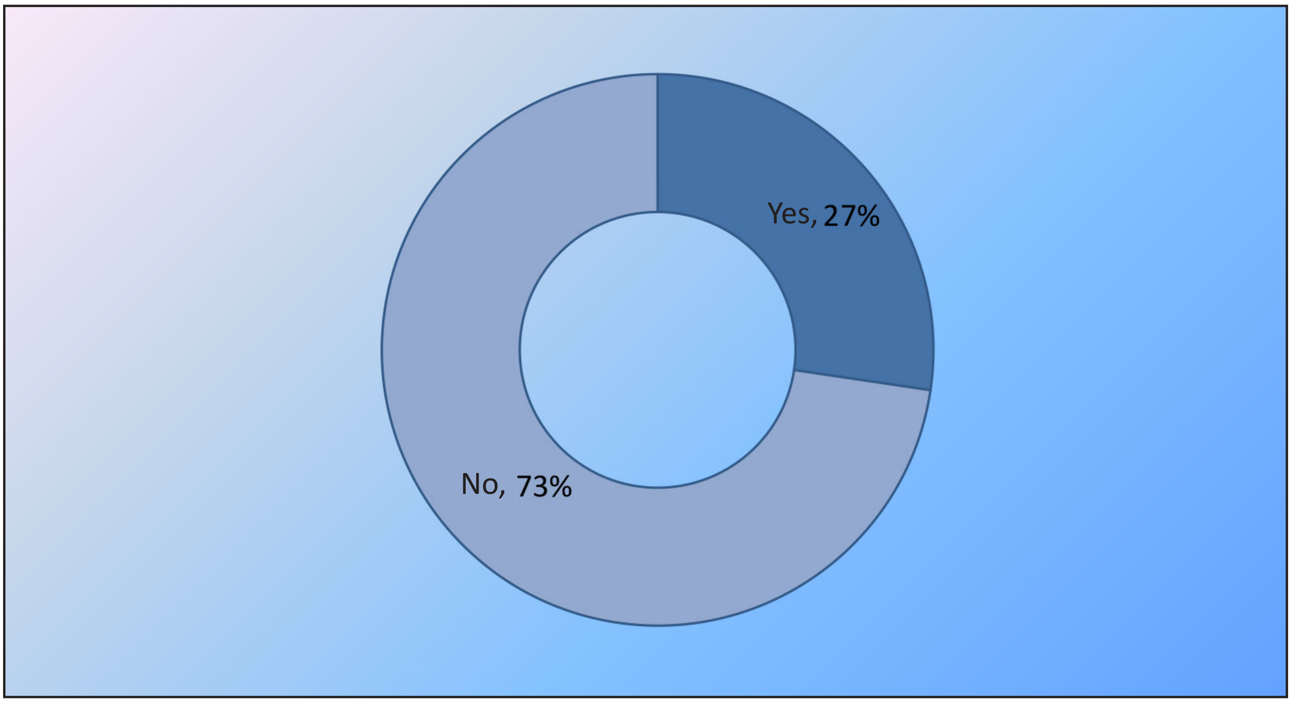
"They did not compensate me for what I've lost because I don't have the deed."[268]

"The state did an estimate of damages, they recorded the loss, but they did not pay for it yet."[269]

---

267 Şirnak, age: 34.
268 Diyarbakir, age 36-49.
269 Yüksekova, age:40.

Chart 75 **Were the damages compensated?**



73% of 140 participants whose applications were not rejected, stated that they had not received the compensation yet and %27 stated that they had already received it.

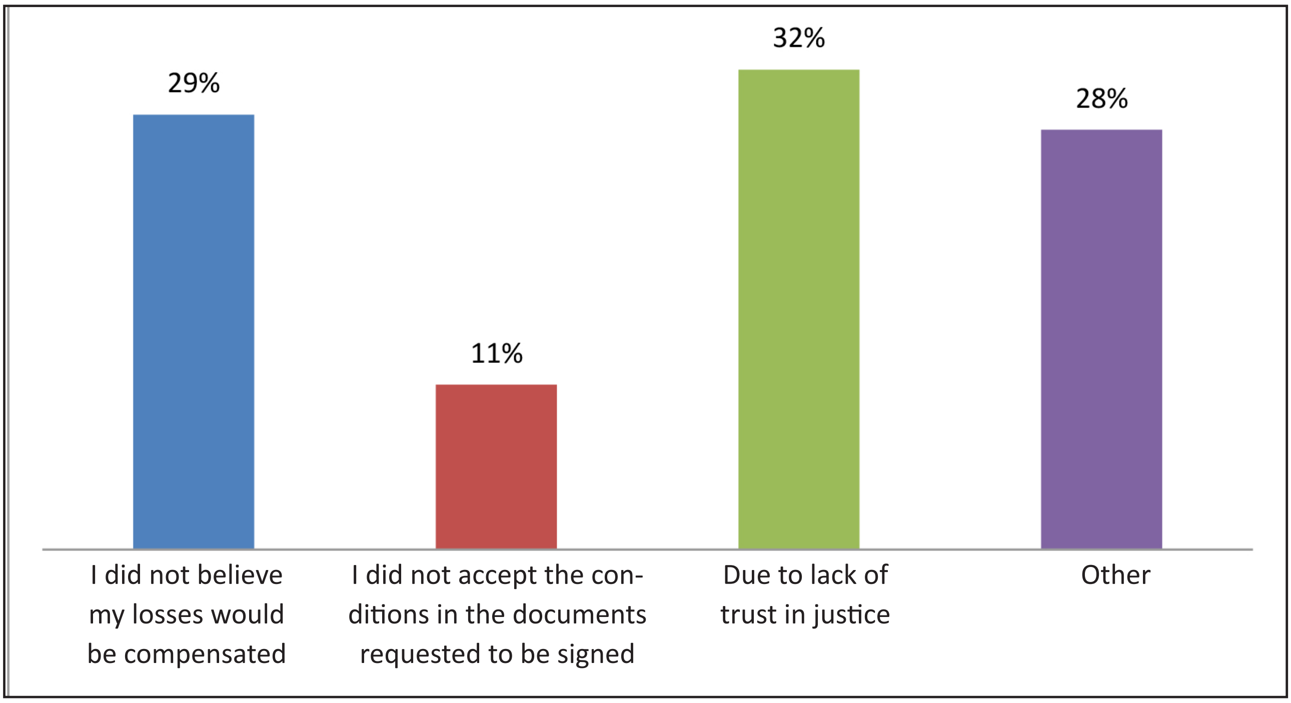
"We applied for compensation, but they did not give us anything. My husband applied. The application was completed. But they said, "Go to the insurance company, they will compensate for your damages." But the insurance did not pay anything either. The insurance only paid for half of the damages inside the house."[270]

"My house was burned but no estimation has been made."[271]

---

[270] Hakkari, age 40.
[271] Cizre, age 31.

Chart 76 **Why did not you apply for a compensation for your loss?**



32% of the participants who did not file an application in regards to damages did not do it due to the lack of trust in justice; 29% did not believe that the damages would be compensated; 11% did not accept the conditions in the application requested to be signed; 28% stated that they did not apply for other reasons.

"Since I did not agree to the conditions in the application for the compensation of loss, the rent assistance was cancelled. My child's disability benefits were also cut off."[272]

……

"Since we experienced the loss of lives, we have not applied for any compensation for damages. We just could not think of anything else but the lives that were lost."[273]

……

"I just want the state to stay away from me, nothing else."[274]

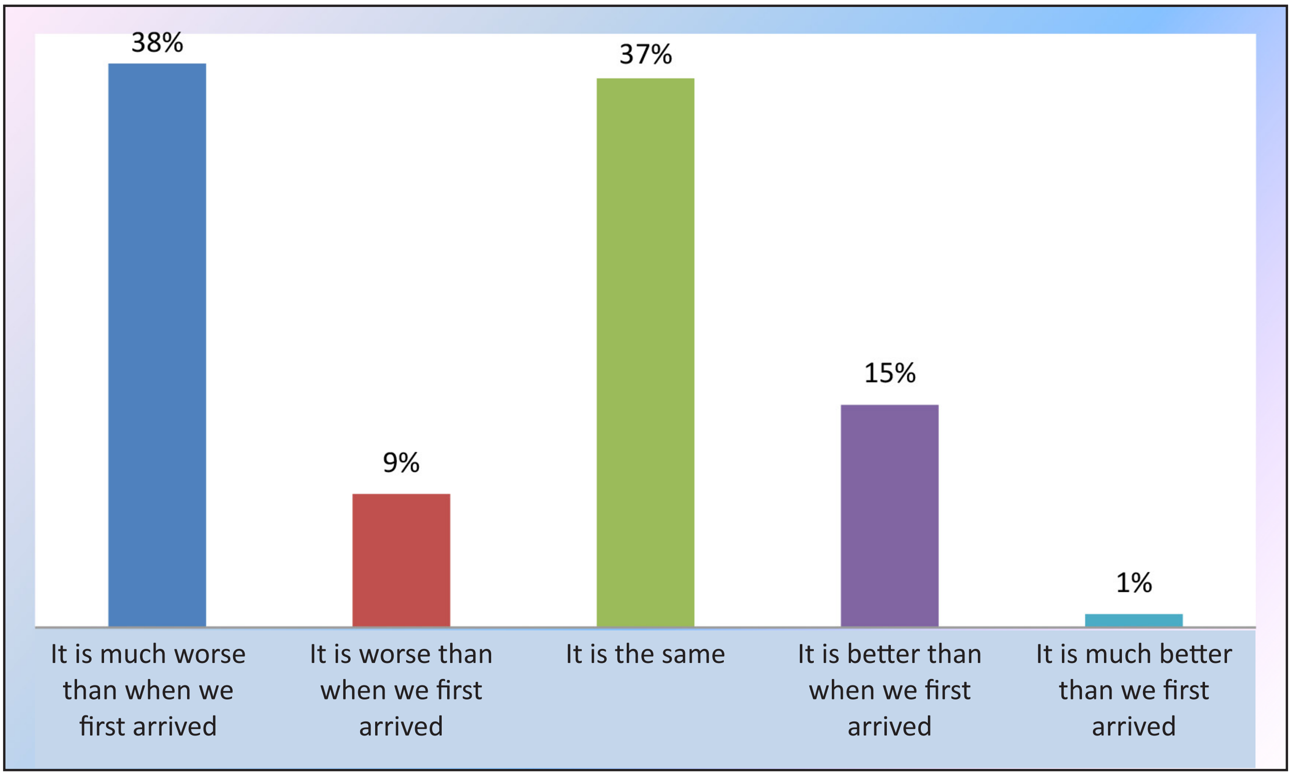
……

"No one can give me back what I have lost. My son's disease has deteriorated after the curfew. Could the state give us back for all those deaths? Could they bring them back to life? The state does not care about us anyway!"[275]

---

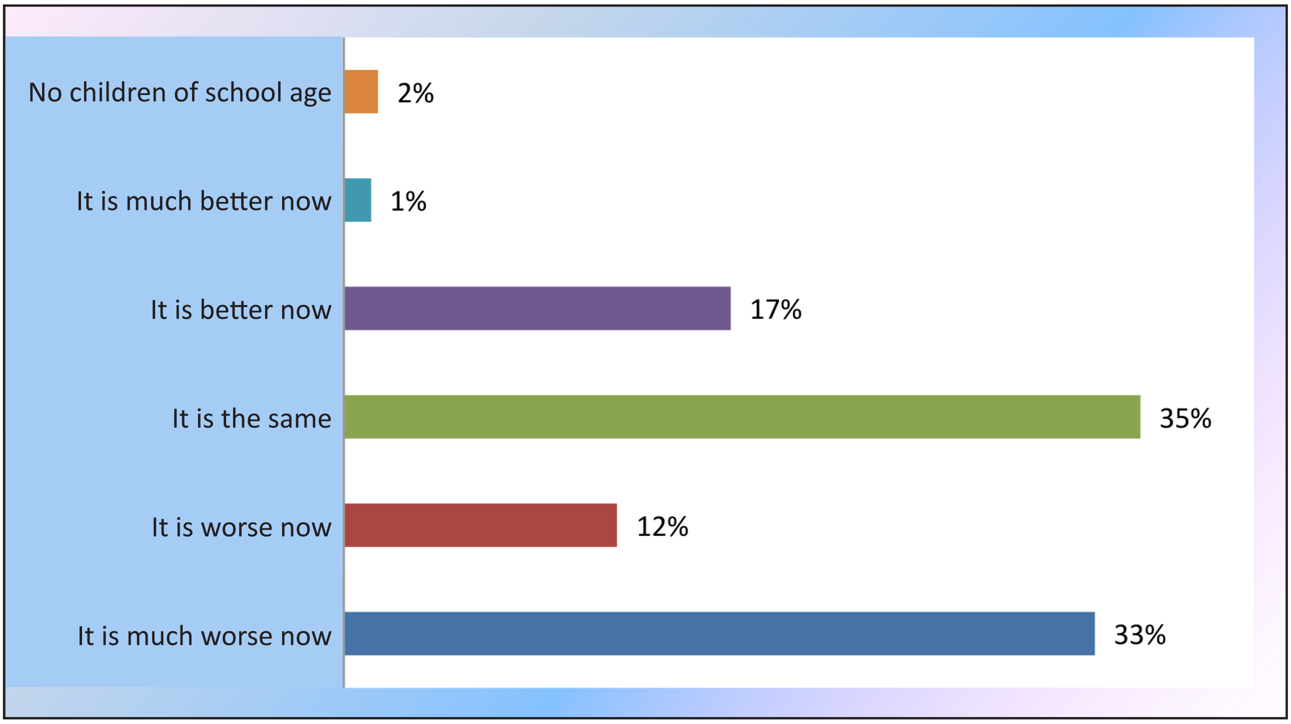
[272] Diyarbakır, age 65 and older.
[273] Idil,age 29-35.
[274] Cizre, age 48.
[275] Cizre, age 24.

Chart 77 **Differences in medical services before and after migration**



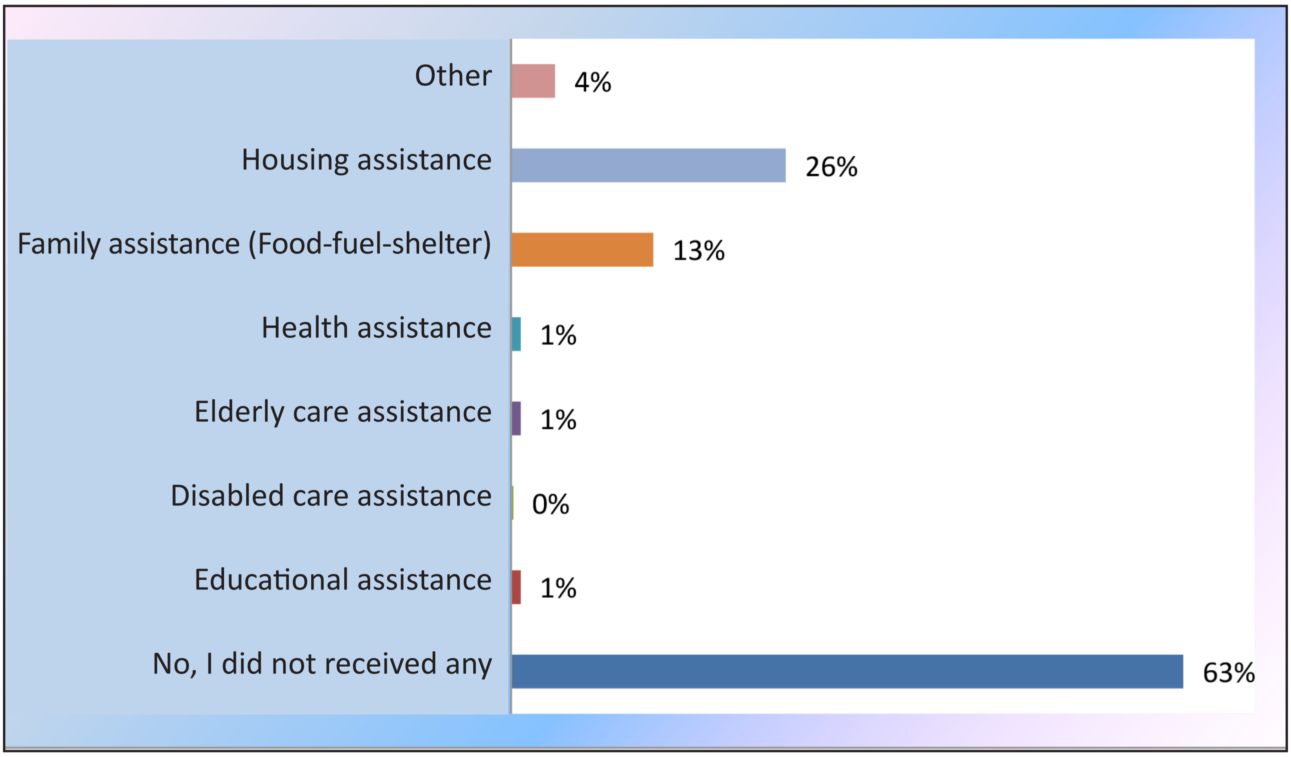
38% of the participants stated that health services were much worse than before migration; 37% stated that there was no difference before and after migration.

Chart 78 **Differences in education services before and after migration**



35% of the participants stated that there was no difference between the educational services before and after migration; 33% stated that it was much worse than before migration.

Chart 79 **Types of aid that received from the government during the blockades and migration**

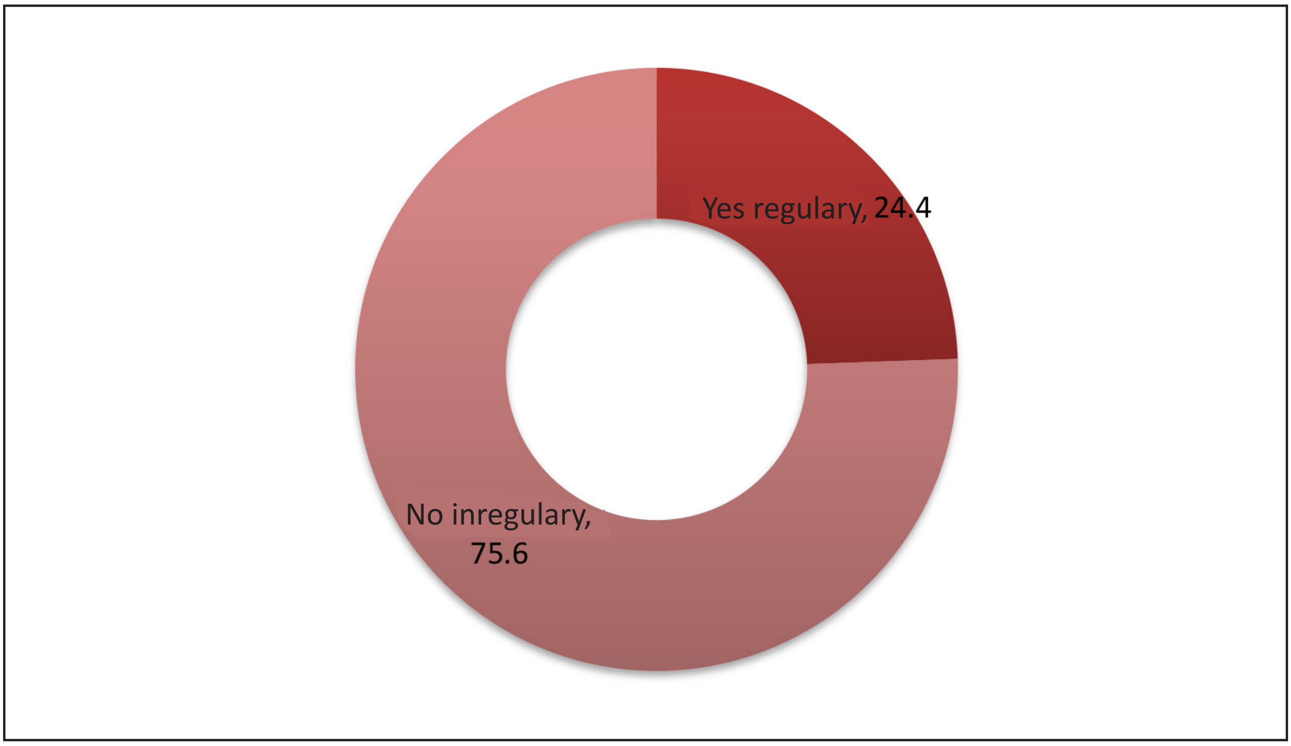


63% of the participants stated that they did not receive any help from the state during both the blockade and process of forced migration; 26% of 201 participants received assistance; 13% —family aid; 3% —education, health and elderly care assistance.[276] Numerous responses were received regarding the fact that assistance sent to families was expired or infested.

---

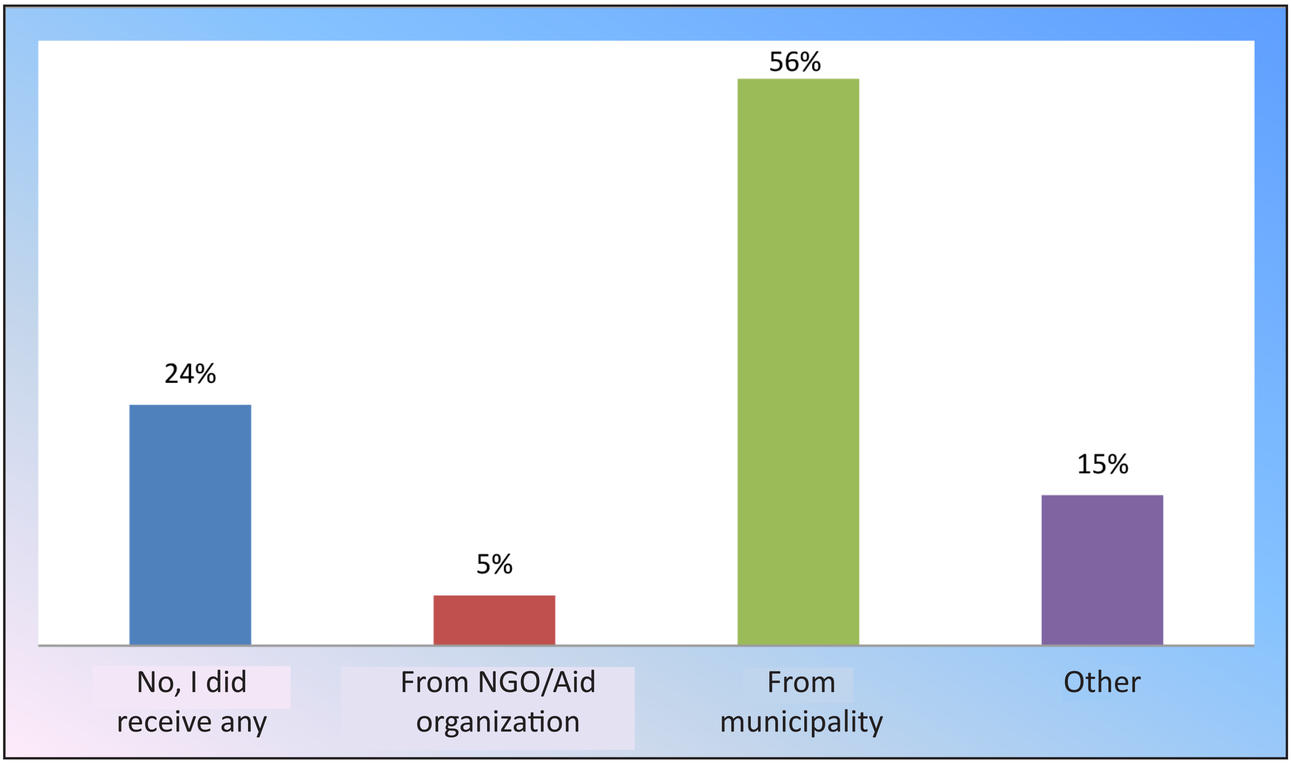
[276] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.

Chart 80 **Was aid received regularly?**



76% of the participants who received government assistance stated that they had not received it regularly; 24% mentioned that they had received it regularly.

Chart 81 **Aid received from nonprofit organizations**



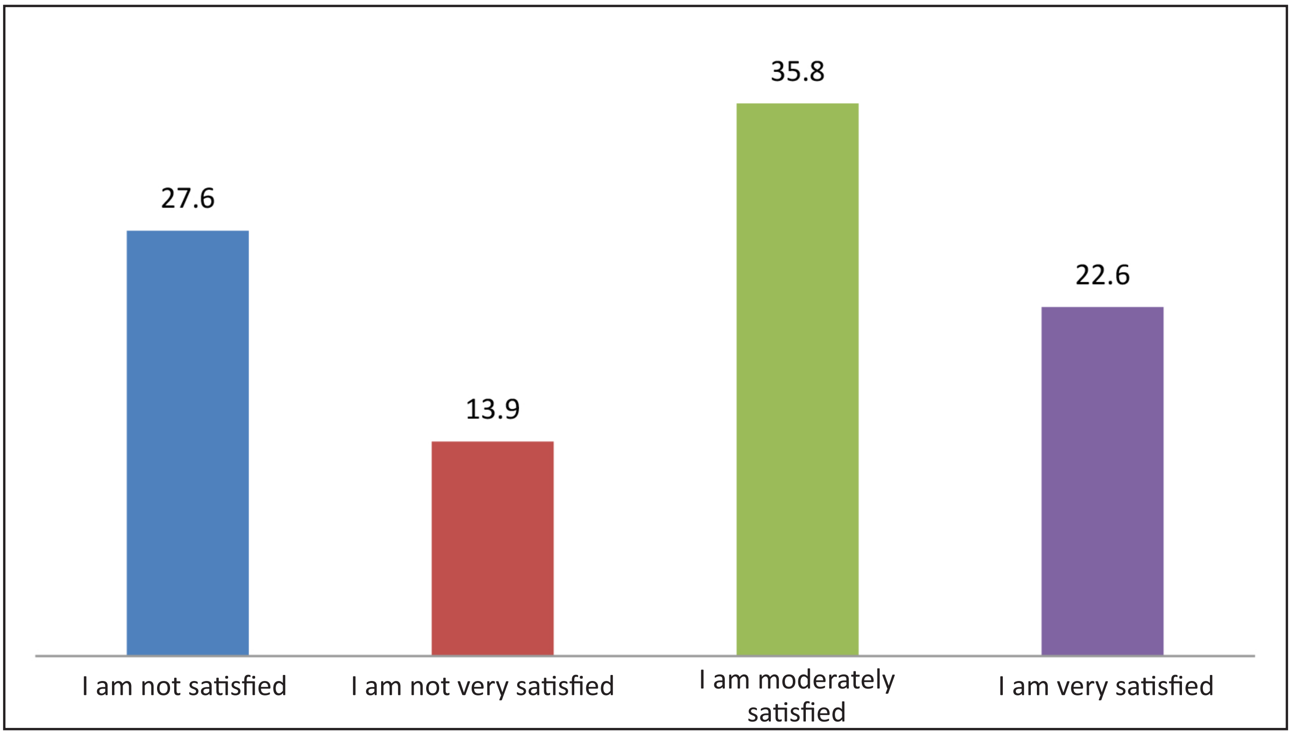
24% of the respondents who did not receive any help from state institutions did not receive any help from non-state institutions either; 56% said that they had received help from municipality; 15%— from different organizations; 5% — from NGOs.

"Municipality helped us a lot, they would give us water and food. People who worked in municipality said that some chemicals may have been thrown into water, so they gave us bottled water instead. "[277]

---

[277] Idil, age 36.

Chart 82 **Level of satisfaction with the place where migrants currently live**



36% of the respondents are moderately satisfied with the place they currently live in; 28% are not satisfied at all; 22% are very satisfied; 14% stated that they were not very satisfied.

The participants experienced great difficulties as they had to abandon their homes and land. A significant proportion of the participants had been forcibly displaced in village evacuations in the 1990s, after which they were not allowed to return to their homes and villages. These processes resulted in areas that are still banned, demolished districts and neighborhoods. A large part of the population does not have a house, street or neighborhood to return to. Those who are able to return under these conditions, despite all the difficulties they experience during this process, experience joy of being able to return to their own land.

"I'm happy to be in my house right now, thank goodness, we moved back. But everything is missing, torn ..."[278]

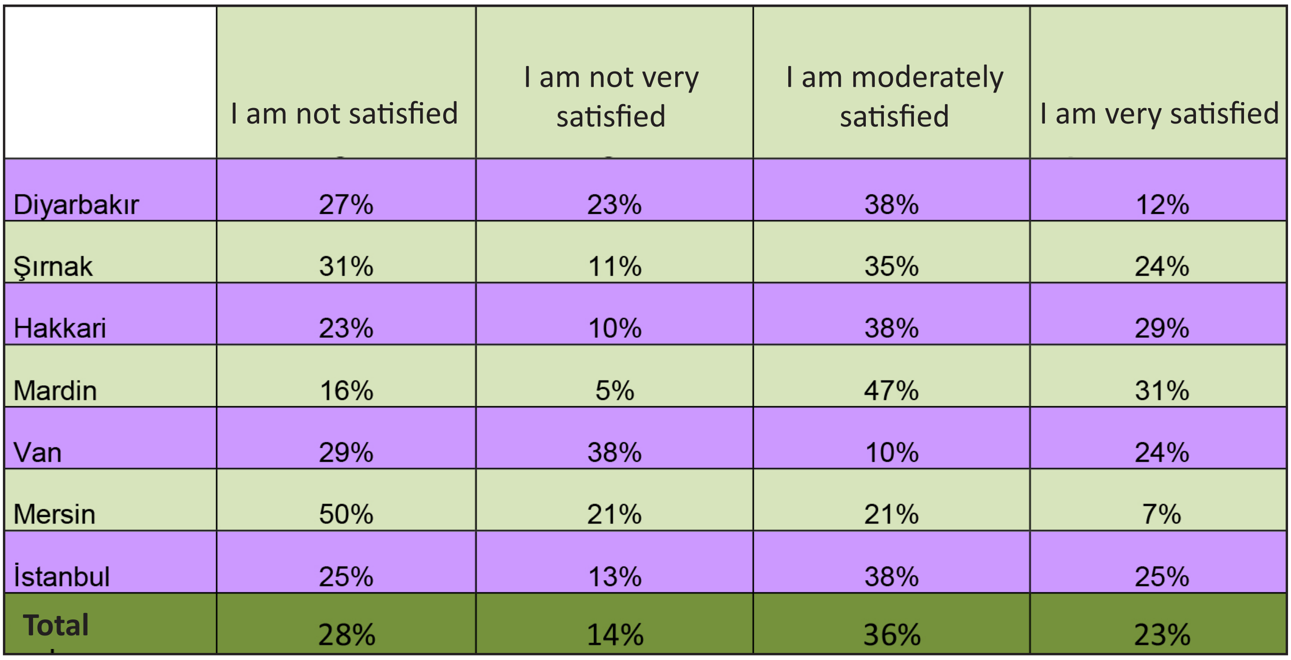
"I am very happy, I live on my own land. How could I not be happy?"[279]

---

[278] Yüksekova, age 40.
[279] Şirnak age?

"After coming back from Mardin, I saw that they burned and destroyed everything. They turned it into a cold place. We were sad, we did not know why they destroyed our place.. this was not good.. But I am relaxed, I was so happy to come back. Look, how much destruction they have done, the area has been flattened. The smell of people, of blood was unbearable. But nevertheless, it was my land. It was difficult being a foreigner in Mardin. You go just 10 steps further and your place, your land is different. I thought if I had a tent to live in, I would have gone to Nusaybin, I did not want to stay in Mardin."[280]

Chart 83 **Cross-distribution graphic of satisfaction levels based on provinces**



	I am not satisfied	I am not very satisfied	I am moderately satisfied	I am very satisfied
Diyarbakır	27%	23%	38%	12%
Şırnak	31%	11%	35%	24%
Hakkari	23%	10%	38%	29%
Mardin	16%	5%	47%	31%
Van	29%	38%	10%	24%
Mersin	50%	21%	21%	7%
İstanbul	25%	13%	38%	25%
Total	28%	14%	36%	23%

When we look at the distribution of satisfaction levels based on provinces that the respondents currently live in, the most common response is 'I am moderately satisfied.' The response 'Very satisfied' was given for Mardin, Hakkâri and Şirnak. Mersin and Van were the places for which the majority of respondents chose responses "not satisfied" and "not very satisfied."

---

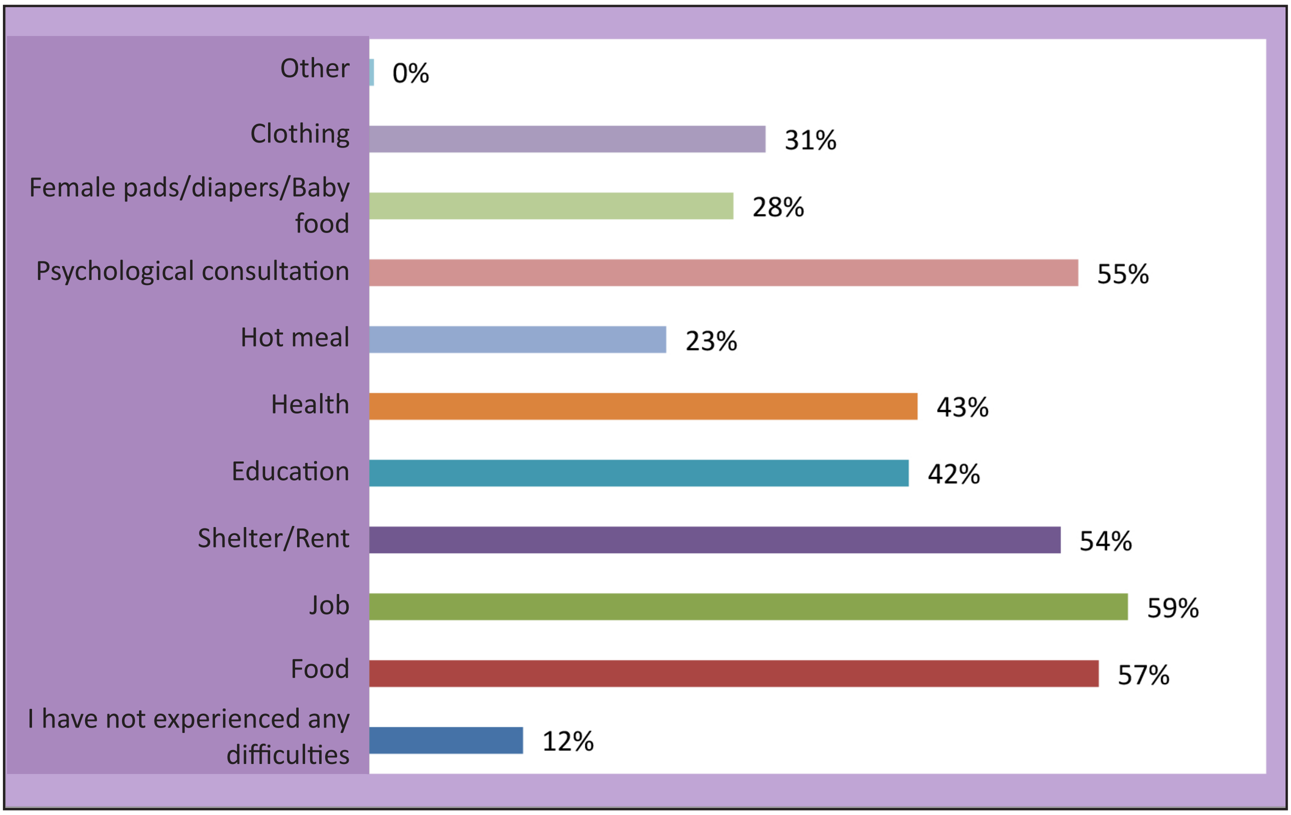
[280] Nusaybin, age 55.

Chart 84 **Changes that occurred to family members after migration**

	Yes	No
The number of household members has increased	40%	60%
I have a better relationship with my children	58%	42%
My social life has changed. I go out less than before	77%	23%
Our family split up and each member migrated to a different region	63%	37%
I got divorced, or a divorce happened in my family	3%	97%

77% of the family and family members before and after migration were negatively affected in terms of social life, and as a result, they went out to the streets less; 63% of them stated that their families had disintegrated because family members had to migrate to different places. 58% of the participants stated that their ties with their children strengthened; 40% reported an increase in the number of household members. Many people also responded, “I am alienated from everything” and “I don’t want to do anything.”

Chart 85 **The needs that were difficult to meet**



59% of the participants had most difficulties finding a job; 57% had difficulty providing food; 55% had difficulty in accessing counseling services due to psychological problems; 54% stated that they had difficulty paying the rent. 43% of the participants had difficulty meeting their needs related to education and health; 31% had difficulty buying clothing, 28% had difficulty buying female pads, diapers and baby food; 23% had difficulty getting a hot meal; 12% stated that they did not have difficulty in meeting their needs."[281]

In the interviews, it was observed that, even though three years have passed since the conflicts, the displaced individuals had difficulty meeting their most basic needs, such as education, health, shelter, food, female pads and diapers, in the post-migration period.

"I do not meet with anybody. Only with my children. For a while my sister/brother would come, my sister/brother in law, I have spent time just with her/him. I did not establish contact with anyone. I had relatives in Mersin but I did not meet with them. I could not sleep at nights, afraid that anything could happen at any moment. I have panic attacks. Even while I was still in our neighborhood, I at least could sometimes fall asleep… I would wake up with a jump, as if there were a bomb.. I had a nervous breakdown. Once I thought about getting some help... For a while my situation was really bad. Because of bombs and pepper gas.. Then I gave up and tried to recover on my own.’’[282]

---

[281] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.

……

“My children were depressed, my son became aggressive, we had great difficulties. Of course, we want to go back to Nusaybin but we have no place to go to there.’’[283]

……

“Those voices are still in my head, we are depressed. We stayed in captivity; the doctor was not allowed to come to us… After the curfews I became an angry person, I was not like this before, I am no longer patient, I get angry. We saw oppression and hardship.’’[284]

……

“There is no assistance, we have no more municipality, the governor was appointed by the state [in a HDP municipality]. No one helped us. Now, we lack everything. The house needs to be repaired, we want our municipality to do this, if they do it, I’ll be satisfied. I want to go back to my old neighborhood. If I do not visit it twice a day, I do not feel comfortable. It should be safe now.’’[285]

……

“We got tired of each other. We did not go to school in the new place. When we came back here, our school life was also irregular.’’[286]

---

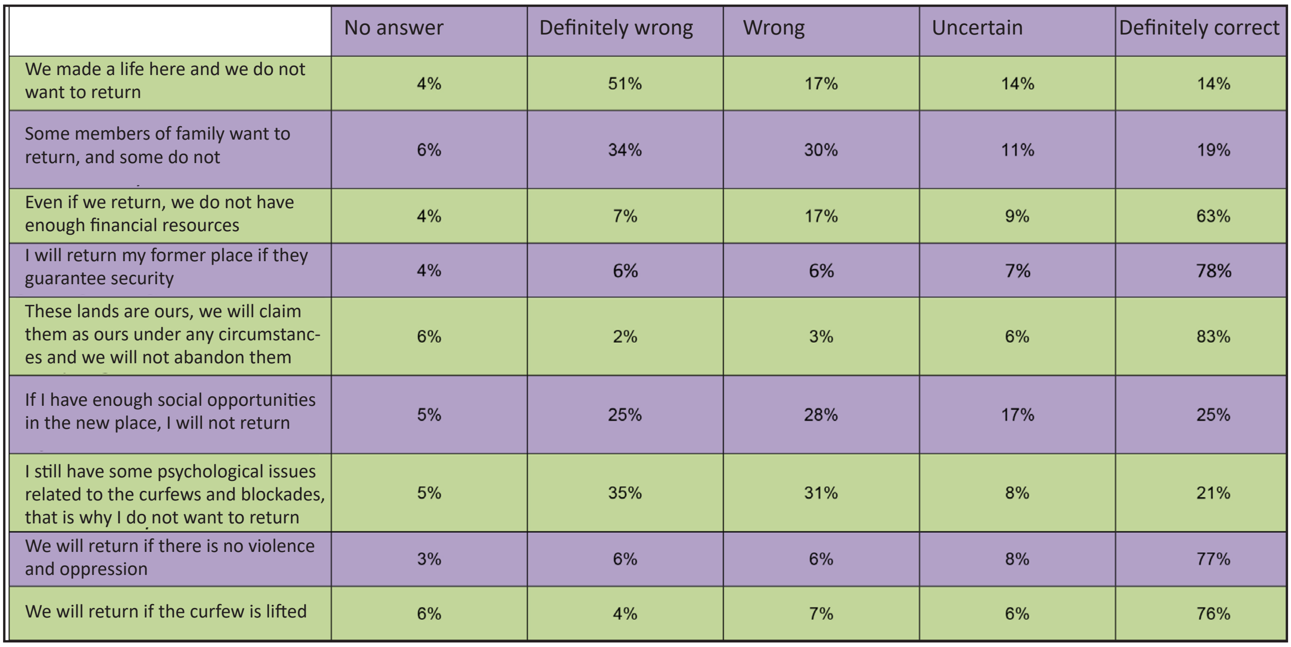
[282] Şirnak, age 39.
[283] Istanbul, age 29-36
[284] Nusaybin, age 55
[285] Idil, yaş 36.
[286] Şirnak , yaş 39.

Chart 86 **Cross-table of the needs that were hard to provide for and violations of basic rights**

	I do not have any difficulty	Food	Job	Shelter/ Rent	Education	Health	Hot meal	Psychological Consultation	Female pads-Diapers/ Baby food	Clothing	Other
Right to life	11%	61%	63%	57%	43%	40%	24%	56%	31%	33%	1%
Shelter	11%	63%	63%	57%	44%	43%	26%	57%	32%	34%	1%
Education	11%	60%	62%	57%	49%	41%	27%	58%	31%	33%	1%
Health	11%	63%	62%	59%	45%	46%	28%	60%	34%	35%	1%
Law	11%	63%	66%	58%	51%	48%	28%	69%	36%	40%	0%
Travel	8%	63%	65%	59%	48%	49%	29%	63%	36%	37%	1%
Other	20%	40%	60%	20%	60%	80%	40%	80%	0%	20%	0%

In the city centers where curfews were imposed in 2015-6, violations of the right to life, housing, education, health, law, travel and other, indicated by the respondents, are cross-listed with the needs that were reported by the same respondents to be difficult to meet, such as work, food, shelter and psychological counseling.

Chart 87 **What do you think about returning to your former place?**



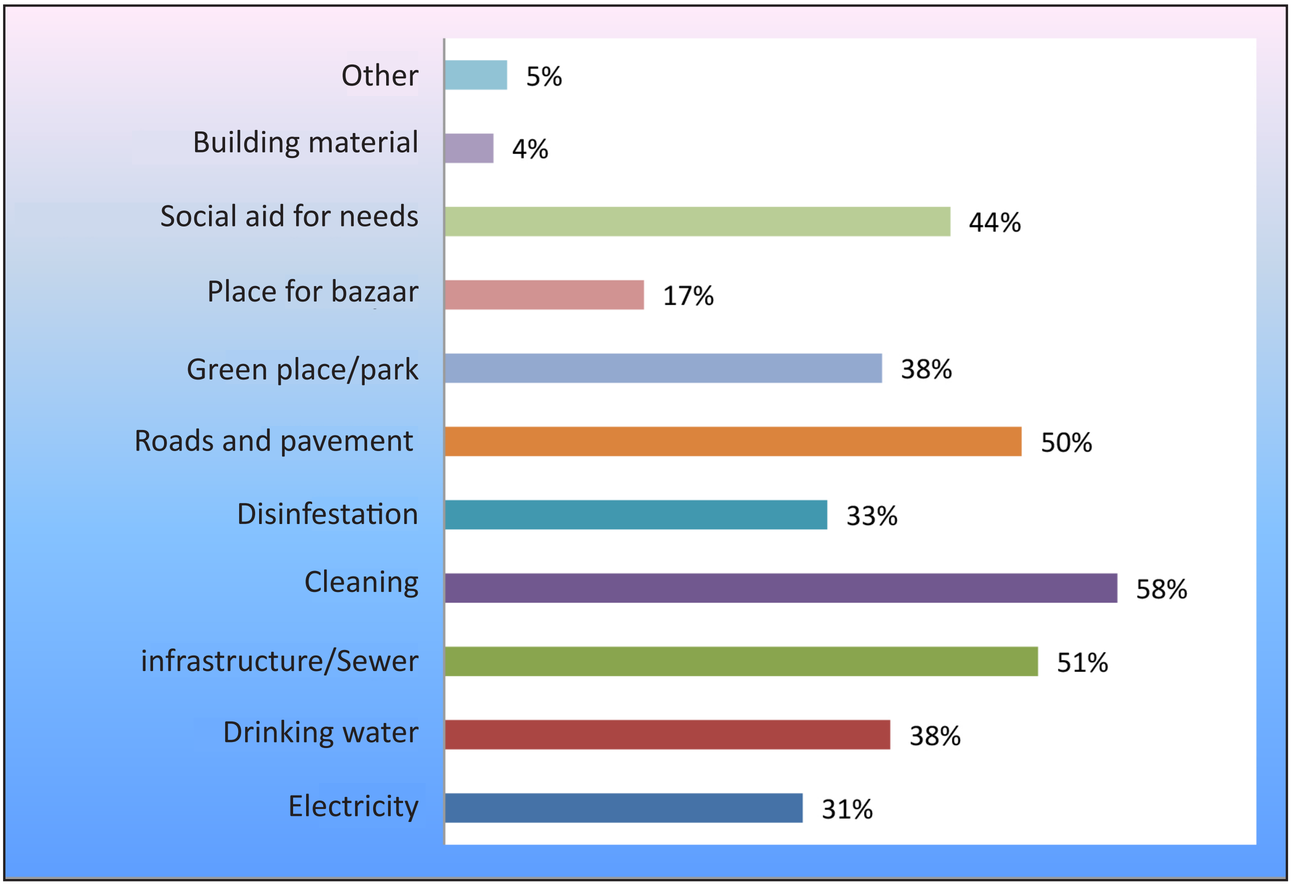
	No answer	Definitely wrong	Wrong	Uncertain	Definitely correct
We made a life here and we do not want to return	4%	51%	17%	14%	14%
Some members of family want to return, and some do not	6%	34%	30%	11%	19%
Even if we return, we do not have enough financial resources	4%	7%	17%	9%	63%
I will return my former place if they guarantee security	4%	6%	6%	7%	78%
These lands are ours, we will claim them as ours under any circumstances and we will not abandon them	6%	2%	3%	6%	83%
If I have enough social opportunities in the new place, I will not return	5%	25%	28%	17%	25%
I still have some psychological issues related to the curfews and blockades, that is why I do not want to return	5%	35%	31%	8%	21%
We will return if there is no violence and oppression	3%	6%	6%	8%	77%
We will return if the curfew is lifted	6%	4%	7%	6%	76%

83% of those who expressed desire to return to their place of residence before migration stated that they would own their land under any circumstances and would never leave it; 78% would return if security was guaranteed, if violence, repression and curfews (that are continuing de facto) were eliminated.

Chart 88 **The participants’ opinions about returning to their former places**

	No answer	Definitely wrong	Wrong	Not sure	Definitely correct
We made a life here and we do not want to return	14%	42%	10%	16%	18%
Some members of family want to return, and some do not	16%	31%	14%	2%	35%
Even if we return, we do not have enough financial resources	10%	4%	4%	8%	73%
I will return my former place, if security is ensured	14%	6%	4%	6%	69%
These lands are ours, we will claim them as ours and we will not abandon them	12%	2%	0	8%	78%
If I have enough social opportunities in the new place, I will not return	15%	34%	15%	13%	23%
I still have some psychological issues related to curfews and blockade that is why I do not want to return	15%	31%	17%	8%	29%
We will return İf violence and oppression are gone	9%	9%	4%	8%	70%
We will return if the curfews are lifted	20%	2%	9%	5%	63%

Chart 89 **Urgent problems related to living spaces that need to be solved**



The primary problems related to the living spaces, indicated by the participants who returned to their places of residence after the curfews and migration, included issues with cleaning, infrastructure, roads / pavement and social assistance support for people in need.[287] Local people faced various problems in the post-conflict period and it can be seen in this study that main problems have still not been solved. In particular, the failure of the authorities to solve infrastructure issues still causes many health problems.

"We had no water, no electricity. We even filed a petition, but no one came. Then I tried to fix it by myself. Water still did not come. When the shops started to re-open, we started buying water. We would buy when we had money; when we did not have, we could not buy. To be honest, we were drinking muddy water. Sometimes we could not find even muddy water, so we would go without it."[288]

……

"When we arrived to Şirnak, there was a strong smell, you wouldn't believe. And there were insect screens. I had to clean flyspeck three times a day. Everywhere would get black just after 10 minutes. I was born in Şirnak, I grew up in Şirnak but I have never seen that much flies. I have never seen flies like that in my entire life. I was depressed after that, also because of flies. That is, everything was upside down. That strong smell, garbage, dust, all that destruction."[289]

---

[287] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.
[288] Şirnak, age 47.

* * *

"We came, we were looking at Şirnak till morning, we were looking at the streets, we were crying. And some of our neighbors came; when their son was playing, he found a hand grenade and it exploded, the child has been in the hospital for two years now. His hand and arm were burned. He was operated eight times already. They have not received any compensation."[290]

* * *

"The curfew continued for three months. We were having troubles mostly with electricity, water and food. We weren't sure if the food that we had at home was safe [after coming back]. We could not know whether they put some chemicals in it or something else. When we came back to our house, we saw that they had thrown away our foods, they had brought a dog to the house and the dog had pooped inside, the house was dirty. Not everyone could get food from the state, the people were victimized."[291]

* * *

"I came and cried and cried for my grandchild and for my house. They threw in chemicals.. we have never applied for anything."[292]

* * *

"There was no electricity. They had blown up water [tanks]. When the war first began here, they turned schools into their headquarters. My neighbor whose house was ruined said that they told him to give them his land. They said that they would give him a house but they wanted 1400 TL per month for that house. They destroyed his house and left him in debt."[293]

* * *

"When we wanted to go back to Cizre, law enforcement officers did not allow us. They told us, "You are going to help the terrorists, aren't you?"[294]

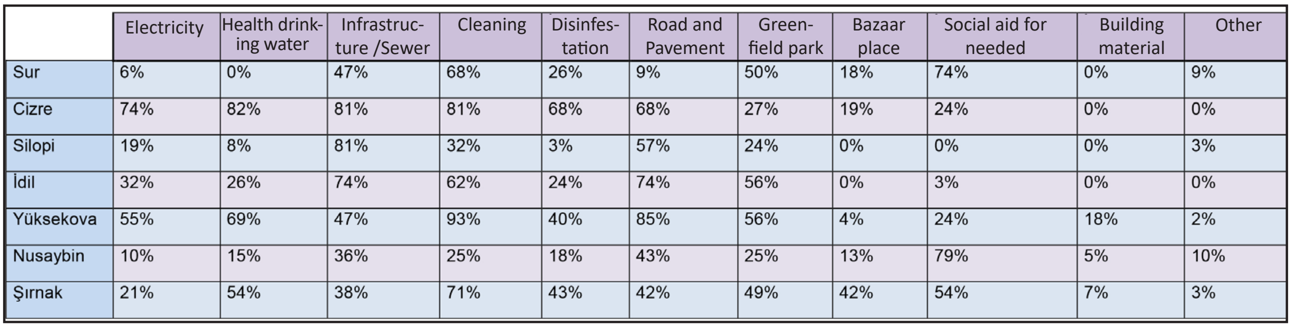
* * *

"They killed people, we went to a basement, everything was flattened, there were people's bones, there are still some. They made a park on top of the graves, probably to make fun of them, to make us forget. Many people still do not go to that park. How can we go to the park that is built on our bodies?"[295]

---

[289] Şirnak,age 39
[290] Şirnak, age 47.
[291] Yüksekova, age 40.
[292] Idil, age 55.
[293] Idil, age 55.
[294] Cizre, age 25.
[295] Cizre, age 80.

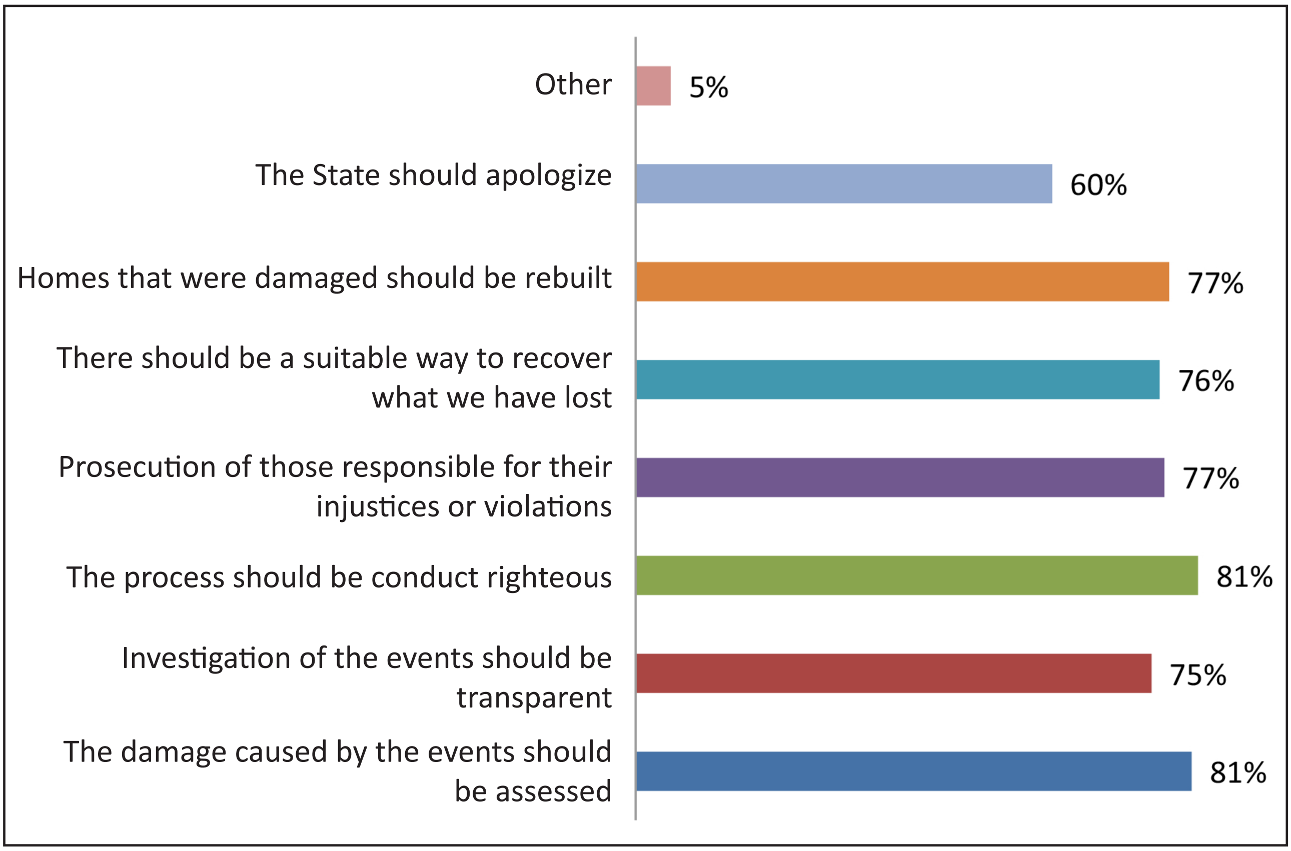
Chart 90 **Distribution of urgent problems in work places that must be solved**



	Electricity	Health drinking water	Infrastructure /Sewer	Cleaning	Disinfestation	Road and Pavement	Green-field park	Bazaar place	Social aid for needed	Building material	Other
Sur	6%	0%	47%	68%	26%	9%	50%	18%	74%	0%	9%
Cizre	74%	82%	81%	81%	68%	68%	27%	19%	24%	0%	0%
Silopi	19%	8%	81%	32%	3%	57%	24%	0%	0%	0%	3%
İdil	32%	26%	74%	62%	24%	74%	56%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Yüksekova	55%	69%	47%	93%	40%	85%	56%	4%	24%	18%	2%
Nusaybin	10%	15%	36%	25%	18%	43%	25%	13%	79%	5%	10%
Şırnak	21%	54%	38%	71%	43%	42%	49%	42%	54%	7%	3%

An analysis of the problems in work place that need to be solved according to cities and districts shows that problems with social assistance and sanitation are the most prominent, especially in Sur. In regards to Cizre, problems with safe drinking water, infrastructure, electricity and sanitation are most frequently mentioned. Problems with infrastructure and roads / pavement are prominent in Silopi and Idil. In Şirnak, problems with sanitation and drinking water are most severe; in Yüksekova— issues with sanitation, pavement and drinking water; In Nusaybin— issues with social assistance and roads / pavement.

Chart 91 **How to restore justice after these events?**



In order to restore the sense of justice after the events, the participants stated that the legal processes should be conducted in a fair manner (81%), the damage caused by the curfews and conflcts should be assessed (81%), demolished living spaces should be rebuilt (77%), injustices and violations should be prosecuted (77%), losses should be compensated for (76%), investigation of the event should be transparent (75%); the state should apologize (60%). [296] After this experience, people's sense of justice and the belief that violations will be dealt with have greatly diminished. Many respondents stated that they did not want to deal with any state institution or the state even after the problems would be solved and the grievances redressed. This also reveals that while implementing mechanisms of restorative justice, it is important to take into consideration not only how, but also who or through whom these mechanisms are implemented.

"What is an apology good for? That was just evil what they did. I was on my period, I was drenched in blood, I could not find a pad. I took off my undershirt and used it as a pad. Is it fair to live through such hard times? I will never forgive!"[297]

---

[296] Due to using multiple choice option N number is higher than examples.

[297] Cizre, age?

“Apart from all destruction and oppression, my 14 years old nephew had a shock during the conflicts and lost his ability to speak. The state does not need to apologize because there is no apology for such damage. “[298]

“Our neighbor was killed when s/he went out. One of her/his young daughters cannot see with one eye because she was injured in gunfire. Even if the state apologizes, I do not think that it will serve any purpose.”[299]

“We want to know who brought upon us this destruction. We hope that we will see the day when the state apologizes to us. They should explain it to us. We want to learn who did all of this to us. When we know it, we will feel at peace.”[300]

“Should the state apologize? For what will the state apologize? If I break your heart, if I hit in the most sensitive part of your body and then apologize to you, what good will it do? What will change if I apologize?”[301]

“If the state apologizes, it will not change anything. Can they give us our graves back? Can they bring our young people back to life? I do not forgive.”[302]

“I don’t know, who will apologize to whom?

“Both sides should apologize, there was no need for this, so many people were hurt.”

“The state should apologize but can we ever forget what’s happened?”

“Should the state apologize? What should I say, what will change if it does? You can write whatever you want [in the questionnaire].”[303]

---

[298] Diyarbakır, age 18-28.
[299] Diyarbakır, age,36-49.
[300] Yüksekova, age 40.
[301] Şirnak, age 39.
[302] Cizre, age?
[303] Cizre, age 40.

“What will change if the state apologizes, can those who are gone come back? Just on our street there were three funerals, we had to remove glass from the graves because of fire.”[304]

……

“Even if the state apologizes, it does not mean anything to me. No one can give me back what I’ve lost. My son’s illness has deteriorated since the curfews. Can the state compensate us for so many deaths? Can the state bring them back to life? The state does not care about us.”[305]

……

“It would be good if the state apologized and compensated us for our losses, but it will never happen, look at what we’ve gone through. Whatever we say is in vain.”[306]

……

“The state does not need to apologize! After it killed so many youth, an apology will be meaningless. Stay away from us!”[307]

……

“Even if the state apologizes I will never forgive them. They may restore what’s been externally destroyed, but they cannot restore the people we’ve lost. If it comes to me to forgive, I do not forgive.”[308]

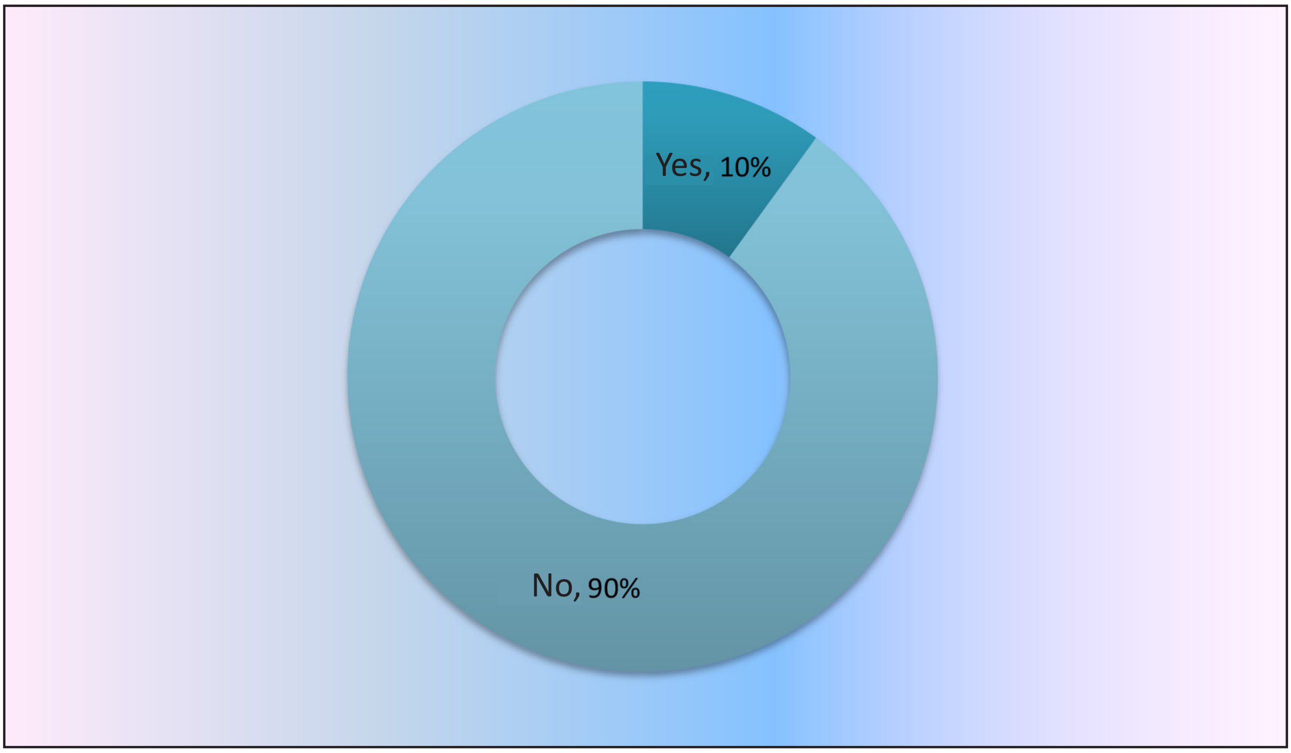
……

“I say the state should apologize to us, everything should come into the open, why did they do this to us, why did they oppress us this way? We are the owners of these lands, we are also the people of this land, of this country, what did they do this to us? I will never forgive the state, maybe I’ll forgive because of fear but, in my heart, we will never forgive, we do not like the state. They made us miserable, our children died, they killed our young daughters. They destroyed my neighborhood, I do not have anything left here even If I had, I wouldn’t go there. Even if they say that they will pay my rent, I will not go. They killed many young children, I cannot go there, there is young people’s blood there.”[309]

---

[304] Cizre, age?
[305] Cizre, age 24.
[306] Cizre, age 31.
[307] Cizre, age31.
[308] Cizre, age 55.
[309] Nusaybin, age 55.

Chart 92 **If the demands are met, will this compensate for the losses?**



90 % of participants said that even if their demands are met, this will not compensate for what they have lost. 10% said their losses can be compensated for.

There is an urgent need for mediating mechanisms.

> *90% of the interviewed women stated that even if their demands were fulfilled, their losses could not be compensated for.*

Based on the survey, interviews and observations conducted with 480 women in 7 provinces and district centers, it can be concluded that the violations that occurred during the curfews period have had severe consequences.

It can be seen that there are steps that must be taken urgently to make possible compensation for these violations, to assess and improve the situation and to take steps towards implementation of restorative justice mechanisms.

STEPS TOWARDS SOCIAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Although all of 480 women interviewed lived through the curfews and conflicts, there were differences in their experiences both as women and as residents of different provinces and districts. It is necessary to take urgent steps taking into account specific circumstances of each experience and each area. Women's sense of justice and their belief that the violations will be addressed has nearly disappeared. Many people stated that they do not want to deal with any state institution even after the problems are solved and the grievances are redressed. Because of the violations they have experienced, the participants blamed the state directly, rather than officials who abuse their power. This reveals that while implementing mechanisms of restorative justice, it is important to take into consideration not only how, but also who or through whom these mechanisms will be implemented.

1. The results of this study show that mediation mechanisms are needed

Mediation mechanisms have been an important example of practices that emerged after similar conflicts in other parts of the world. The "Wise People's Committee," created in Turkey during the peace process, has emerged as a result of a search for mediation mechanisms. Even though Turkey's transitional justice period did not last long, this committee became one of the positive developments during that period. The tribunal, which consisted of 63 members, was created to establish contacts and organize symposiums in 7 different regions of Turkey. However, one of its biggest shortcomings was the fact that only 12 of the members in the committee were women. The fact that there was only one female member representing each region in the Wise People's Committee for the Eastern Anatolia and Southeastern Anatolia, demonstrates that the mechanism in which women should be able to share their experiences and formulate their demands was created with a male-centered gender approach. Women's Initiative for Peace (BİKG), established with the demand for a women-focused peace and solution process in Turkey, has also been working actively to bring forward women to share their experiences and express their demands for peace.

There is no mechanism at the moment to reveal the rights violations and realities experienced by women during and after this conflict period. During the field research that we conducted, women expressed their demand for this kind of mechanism. One of the most important observations made during the field research is that women see the state as the perpetrator of the violations. Because they see the state as the source of their problems, they refuse to report to official institutions the violations that they experienced, their complaints and demands. According to our observations, it is very difficult for women who see the state as the source of violence to share their experiences, complaints, and demands with it. New mechanisms should be established especially to deal with such problems as pecuniary and non-pecuniary losses, forced displacement, threats, oppression, harassment, sexual assault, aggravated poverty etc.

In our study, Table 44 shows that the rate of violations of women's privacy during the conflict period reported by the participants was 36%. As to the question of who violated their privacy, 87% of the respondents identified law enforcement officers. As shown in Table 45, 64% of the respondents left unanswered the question about what kind of privacy violation they had experienced. This result indicates that women have become silent. There is a need for institutions that can reveal violations experienced by women and find solutions for them.

Because of the suffering, violence and rights violations that they were subjected to during and after the conflicts, the women's trust towards the state has significantly diminished or completely disappeared. Thus, results of our study bring forward the need to establish mediation mechanisms based on broad participation that take into account local needs, to replace the formality of official institutions. In addition, unofficial processes built from the ground-up can voice the victims' narratives and refute the existing state narrative. These mediation mechanisms must be established based on a women-oriented gender perspective.

Before it is Too Late

When we look at examples of post-conflict mediation in the world, we see the frequent use of *transitional justice* mechanisms. Transitional justice generally appears as part of peace negotiations after a ceasefire has been announced and a political consensus has been reached in the post-conflict period. However, transitional justice mechanisms should be put into action as soon as possible as it will take time for political reconciliation or peace talks to begin. It is very important to reveal the truth through information gathered with the mechanisms established during or immediately after the conflict. These mechanisms, which need to be established before too much time passes, should create a database of rights violation to be used in subsequent peace processes. It would be shortsighted to wait for the end of the conflict to start thinking about implementation of such a comprehensive approach, and, in the process of waiting, an opportunity may be missed to contribute directly or indirectly to future peace processes.[310]

Transitional justice aims to build social policies based on peace and democracy during periods of severe violations of rights or after the end of a conflict, to bring to justice the perpetrators of the violations committed, to reveal the truth about these violations, and to establish fair reparation and compensation mechanisms for the victims. On the one hand, it aims to build social reconciliation and peace, and on the other, it tries to take measures to prevent society from experiencing similar rights violations in the future. Transitional justice includes constitutional and administrative changes, including punitive, investigative and restorative methods to repair the destruction done by the conflict.[311] They encompass many different methods and mechanisms such as criminal prosecution, compensation and reparation processes, initiatives to reveal the truth, institutional reforms and social and cultural initiatives. Legal mechanisms that aim at punishing perpetrators in national and international courts are within the scope of punitive justice. The restorative justice approach tries to redress grievances by revealing the truth through unofficial processes and mechanisms and by ensuring social peace and reconciliation.

---

310 Roger Duthie and Paul Seils, 2016. "The Case for Action on Transitional Justice and Displacement", The International Center for Transitional Justice

311 Iavor Rangelov ve Ruti Teitel, "Global Civil Society and Transitional Justice," Global Civil Society 2011: Globality and the Absence of Justice ed. Martin Albrow and Hakan Seckinelgin, 162

World Examples

Based on the restorative justice approach of transitional justice, truth committees have been a frequently used method since they provide a platform where victims and witnesses of violence can express their unique experiences. There are many examples of truth commissions established during and after a conflict.

After the abolition of the apartheid regime in South Africa, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in order to confront the past, to reveal severe rights violations and to investigate the causes and dimensions of the violations experienced by the victims. The most important feature of this democratic transition period was to adopt a peaceful, restorative and constructive approach while confronting the past. Victims participated in the Commission as witnesses and were given the opportunity to describe the violations of their rights.

The civil war that started in Guatemala in 1960 ended in 1996 with the declaration of peace with support of the United Nations. As part of the peace agreement, the Commission for Historical Clarification was established to expose the extent of violence and rights violations experienced during the war and to prepare a report and make recommendations to the government.

Severe human rights violations were committed against civilians during the long-term civil war in Sierre Leone. Violations such as killing, rape, forced conscription of children, and cutting of body parts undermined people’s trust in state institutions. For this reason, a peace agreement was signed with the UN and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established by the Parliament. In general, the Commission was assigned such duties as recording violations, addressing impunity, identifying and responding to the needs of the victims and their relatives, and preparing a ground for compromise in order to prevent similar events in the future.

In Colombia, the final agreement was reached between the government and the FARC as a result of negotiations to end the conflict that lasted for more than 50 yearsand led to the deaths of thousands of people and the displacement of more than 6 million people. It was decided to establish the Truth Commission in order to reveal the violations of severe rights.

It Is Essential to Have a Gender Perspective

One of the biggest handicaps of Transitional Justice is the inability of adopt a gender perspective. In both punitive and restorative justice mechanisms, since gender has not been a determining paradigm, women have not been considered as a political subject in transitional justice, and not enough attention has been paid to women's war and conflict experiences. During and after a conflict, peace talks and amnesty negotiations, men are generally more visible. In order to ensure women's participation in these processes, to prioritize their representation and to ensure them a more effective role, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. The UNSCR Resolution 1325 calls upon states to increase the number of women involved in decision-making in peace-building and conflict transformation processes; to protect women and girls during and after conflicts, especially from gender-based violence; and to adopt a gender perspective on construction and preservation of peace and mediation.

An analysis of the examples around the world would reveal that a gender perspective has not been taken into consideration in post-conflict peace processes.

There is a hierarchy of human rights violations with violations of the right to life being at the top. Usually, truth commissions, while engaging in uncovering the most serious violations that infringe upon the right to life, such as enforced disappearance, killing, torture, extrajudicial killings, and unsolved murders; make less visible violations experienced by women such as poverty, forced displacement, threats, harassment, loss of relatives, socio-economic difficulties, and psychological disturbances. In this process, gender-based violence at home is most often interpreted as belonging to the private sphere and is thus ignored or considered to be a violation of secondary importance. While both men and women were subjected to violence during the Apartheid regime in South Africa, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) focused on serious violations such as killing, torture, and injury, ignoring rights violations experienced by women. The commission that reported the most serious human rights violations did not expose unprecedented violations suffered by women in the apartheid regime. Out of 22,000 people who testified for the TRC, there were only 158 women who testified about sexual and gender-based violence. It cannot be the case that only 158 women could have suffered from such a violation.[312] In the Truth Commission in Chile, only 126 out of 2,279 people who suffered human rights violations were women. The reason for such low number of women's testimonies is not the fact that they suffered fewer violations than men in the conflict period, but rather the gender perspective of transitional justice processes dominated by men's experiences.

---

[312] Ketty Anyeko, "Mainstreaming Gender in Truth-seeking and Traditional Justice Processes in Uganda" Civil Society Dialogue on Gender and Transitional Justice in Uganda: Opportunuties and Challenges.

In addition, women's testimonies on the committees focus more on rights violations done to their husbands, children or other male members in their families. Women may talk about the violence that their relatives experienced, but not themselves, or they may focus on attacks on their homes and property. They tend to avoid talking about sexual abuse and harassment. The low number of female members in the commissions or the fact that the commissions are not made up of exclusively female members become the reason for women not being able to share their experience of violence and rights violations. For this reason, special sub-commissions should be established where only women would be involved.

In addition, women are considered to be victims when they are raped or sexually assaulted during and after a conflict. Sexual violence receives more attention compared to other kinds of violence and rights violations experienced by women. In many truth commissions, while experiences of a female "perfect victim" are exposed, other grievances are considered as secondary and of lesser significance. In the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, while the women told about their experiences of oppression, violence, detention, imprisonment and exclusion during the apartheid, only rape was emphasized as a "perfect victim" narrative in the Commission's report. The report of the Truth Commission in Chile revealed that almost all of the women who testified experienced sexual violence. In Guatemalan and Peruvian Commissions, the violence experienced by women has come to the fore almost exclusively with testimonies of rape. There is no doubt that during and after the conflicts, women were exposed to many other types of violence and were not subjected to sexual violence alone. This is also evident in the tables and witness statements in our study. However, the creation of a "perfect victim" makes visible only sexual violence. In addition, interpreting victimization only through sexual assault makes invisible defense mechanisms and resistance that women develop during and after conflicts.

Limiting violations of rights only to the period of conflict or war is not only a narrow point of view, but it also prevents exposing all of the violations. Civil wars, blockades or conflicts do not start at once, nor do they end up in an instant. The material and non-pecuniary losses resulting from a conflict lead to new grievances and violations in a post-conflict period. Increasing domestic violence, sexual violence, exclusion, psychological disturbances, traumas, humiliation, increased poverty, forced migration, and post-conflict displacement should be part of a transitional justice approach. It was noted in our study that domestic violence had increased to 31% in the conflict process. In order to ensure a lasting peace and reconciliation and prevent similar events in the future, it is important to redress violations and grievances that occurred in the post-conflict period and transitional justice must be included in this process.

Steps that must be taken:

- Establishment of mechanisms of punitive and restorative justice that are frequently used in the transitional justice approach
- Urgent legislative arrangements should be made to ensure that laws of compensation for material losses are in place and criminal offenses are accounted for in a legal procedure.
- Establishment of truth commissions, one of the instruments of transitional justice
- Establishment of truth commissions with a women-oriented gender perspective
- Establishment of strong sub-commissions, built from the bottom-up that could meet needs of the local populations
- Creation of truth commissions that consist only of female members, where women can reveal in detail violations they experience, different types of violence they are subjected to and their experiences of war.
- Involvement of NGOs, local organizations and international organizations from different sectors
- Incorporation of a greater number of women in roles of mediators in truth commissions

Mental disorders reach alarming proportions

Our study revealed that the rate of women who have experienced mental problems due to the conflicts is at a high rate of 75%. Considering the reality of the region, such a high rate should raise the alarm. It should be noted that practically all women in our study were affected psychologically to some degree in that period. However, because of other losses they had experienced, some women deemed it unnecessary to talk about their personal mental state.

When people experience extreme stress, they may exhibit various physiological symptoms (headaches, heart attack, stroke, skin diseases, etc.) and suffer from physiological disorders. The ways in which psychological disorders manifest themselves in individuals may vary.

Among the psychological problems that women reported to have experienced during the conflict process were war trauma, failure to react, overreaction, difficulty falling asleep, difficulty maintaining sleep, decrease in self-care, depression, panic attacks and absence of sexual desire.

Such psychological disorders as post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, chronic depression, auditory hallucinations, psychosomatic symptoms, obsessive-compulsive disorder, have a long duration. Therefore, while some of them can be diagnosed during the conflict process, symptoms that have long-term diagnostic criteria can be identified after migration.

A person is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder if, while staying away from the trauma environment, she or he exhibits involuntary repetitive behavior related to the traumatic event and sees it in dreams continually at least for one month. Even after post-traumatic stress disorder is treated, it can reappear after a few years. Despite the fact that more than two years have passed since the end of the curfews, it was observed in the interviews that the women continue experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. This may be due to the fact that some people have a chronic posttraumatic stress disorder. Traumatic memories may also be re-activated because of the tanks that continue circulating in the cities, the continuous pressure by law enforcement officers and the continuation of blockades in some areas.

The continuous presence of the stimuli that reminds of the conflicts causes not only the persistence of post-traumatic stress disorder, but also panic disorder due to ongoing anxiety and panic attacks.

Development of suicidal thoughts in women

Suicidal thoughts develop due to an increase of psychological disorders and the failure to cope with them. It was reported by the women interviewed for this study that suicidal ideas did not remain just thoughts but were actually implemented in some instances.

Mothers developed either an inability to relate to their children or, on the opposite, excessive attachment to them.

The lack of sexual desire and problems with the partner, decreased self-care and inability to carry out activities on one's own caused disruptions in the activities that must be done daily.

Decreased sense of trust and the resulting communication disorders, sleep disturbance and anger control disorder occurred due to excessive stress.

After the conflict process, a large proportion of women stated that they were using antidepressants and that, without using them, they could not perform the most basic activities like sleeping and carrying out daily tasks. At the same time, they reported feeling over drugged by anti-depressants.

Economic Conditions

While the cities have been greatly damaged due to curfew and conflict, there has been a great decrease and collapse in the economic situation of the region. Families who were forced to emigrate and were not allowed to return were dispossessed together with impoverishmentThe environment of violence and conflict has rendered the economic underdevelopment of the region permanent by destroying the economic life of which there is not enough public investments and supported by the internal dynamics of the people of the region. It has been observed that the people of the region, who have been living through the border trade, agriculture and informal (construction etc.) sectors, have experienced a great economic collapse in the conflict and post-conflict period. This situation has been frequently expressed by the women attendants and has been observed during the interviews. In curfews and conflicts, the situations such as not being able to go to work, dismissal, and diminished job opportunities have increased economic difficulties. On the other hand, the damage or destruction of houses caused the fragile economic situation of many pre-conflict households to deteriorate during the conflict and post-conflict period.

Women who are forced to tackle the increasing poverty in conflict and post-conflict processes need to be economically strengthened for individual and social development. Women who are exposed to all kinds of violence should be encouraged to participate in economic life in order to be psychological and social improvements and become strong and free individuals. New policies in which women’s employment in the region are centered should be built and they should be encouraged to participate in economic life.

* In cities where conflicts are experienced intensively, both public and private sectors need to invest and create employment areas.

* For women with low levels of education, vocational training should be provided and courses should be opened by considering the unqualified workforce.

* Policies to increase women’s participation in the labor force should be developed and priority should be given to women’s participation in the labor force, especially in those households that have lost their relatives during the conflict and the migration period.

* Attempts should be done to employ the women in local and public institutions in the region.

* Economic workshops should be held on the basis of women’s participation in the region.

* Women’s Cooperation Branches should be established in order to strengthen women socio-economically.

* Various production cooperatives should be established on the basis of common production and consumption. These cooperatives should be supported based on the basic source of income and production models of each region.

* Support should be provided for elements (such as housework, child and elderly care) that could hinder women’s participation in the workforce.

* Legislation should be made to eliminate gender inequality in public institutions and private sectors that in the region.

Evaluation and urgent recommendations

1- Reminders of the curfews and blockades, such as tanks, night guards, law enforcement officers, and home raids, continue to be experienced in city centers. These stimuli create a serious pressure on people and these pressures lead to a gradual increase of anxiety. All these negative experiences delay healing processes in individuals. In order for the healing process to proceed rapidly, these stimuli must be eliminated and a safe environment must be established.

2- Formation of psychosocial support networks; the availability of these networks for women must be ensured on a continuous basis.

In psychosocial support networks that have been created previously, people who provided counseling services were changed on a frequent basis. No trust and therapeutic relationship could have been established. Such treatment delays healing processes instead of advancing them.

3- Women's centers should be established in Şirnak, Silopi, Idil, Cizre, Nusaybin, Yüksekova and Sur, to provide women with physiological, psychological and social support.

A gynecologist should be employed to improve their physiological health.

Services related to reproductive health should be provided.

Training for preventive health services should be provided (breast cancer, uterine cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, polycystic over syndrome).

Psychosocial support teams should be established in order to improve women's psychological health. Psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists should be present in these teams.

These psychosocial support teams should conduct long-term (that last at least for two years) and comprehensive treatment. Treatment should not be completed without a full recovery unless the client wants it.

Hormone tests should be performed for the purpose of identifying whether disorders experienced by women are psychosomatic or physiological.

Group therapies should be done in centers (art therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy). Individual psychological counseling should also be provided.

Various social activities should be offered in order to improve women's psychological health. Teams that offer psychosocial support should do it in women’s native language.

Activities should be organized for women to strengthen development of their social skills and social position (handcrafted activities, drama, painting, yoga, sports, etc.)

Training about women’s rights should be given.

Psychosocial support teams should carry out artistic, cultural and social activities for women together with other NGOs and institutions (sightseeing activities, theater, festivals).

4- Women’s solidarity networks should be established in order to strengthen women’s socio-economical position. Various production cooperatives should be established on the basis of common production and common consumption. These cooperatives can be based on production of basic livelihood items for each region. These items can also be sold in urban cooperatives. The income obtained in cooperatives should be shared among women in solidarity networks.

5- Measures should be taken in regards to factors that make it difficult for women to reach these centers. The centers should have playrooms for children. Various game activities should be created for children alongside activities for women. Women with children should be provided with transportation to the centers.

Conclusion

The problem of forced migration was a process that deepened and intensified the Kurdish problem in Turkey. Policies that have been implemented for years in regards to the Kurdish question should be revised and the problem should be correctly defined. Policies that do not bring solutions, render the problem even more unsolvable and are based on pressure, denial and assimilation should be abandoned.

A democratic solution to the Kurdish question is possible; we call on the parties to end the conflicts immediately and to re-open the negotiations in order to implement the democratic methods that have already been used to some degree in order to solve the problem.

The events that took place during the curfews should be exposed in all aspects, and a commission composed of parliament members and NGOs should be established to redress and compensate for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages.

The curfews that continue in certain districts prevent individuals from feeling safe and from expressing themselves freely.

The curfews have inevitably led to the violations of rights and freedoms that are difficult to compensate for. The curfews declared on the basis of Article 11 / C of the Provincial Administration Law do not have legal grounds. Hence, the ongoing curfews, which were declared contrary to national and international legislation, should be terminated.

General comment of UN Economic and Social Cultural Rights Committee No. 7 identifies forced eviction as “removal of persons, families and / or communities from their homes and / or communities against their own will, whether temporarily or permanently, and without providing appropriate legal or other forms of protection” and encourages states “to ensure that relevant legislation and other measures, by special persons or organizations, sufficient to prevent forced evictions carried out without appropriate protective measures and to punish them where necessary.” During the curfews, citizens’ right to life was violated; they were deprived of access to water, electricity and food; the use of health and communication rights was not allowed; no necessary protection was provided.

The government has acted contrary to the principles of universal and domestic law and violated all international human rights conventions to which it is a party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Elimination of Children’s Rights (CRC), and the Geneva Conventions. The authorities must act in accordance with the conventions originating from international law, and forced migration currently experienced in this country must be carried out in accordance with the UN *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*.

According to Article 35 of the Constitution and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights, all persons have the right to respect for the immunity of their property. The rights of persons protected in Article 35 of the Constitution and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 have been violated due to the serious damages done to the property of persons during the curfews. The government should take the necessary measures to compensate for the pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages suffered by the people.

While the curfews have affected all segments of the society, women who have been displaced or migrated are more disadvantaged compared to men. Women who were exposed to such traumatic experiences as torture, physical or sexual violence, death threat, and loss of relatives experience health / psychological deficiencies, issues with education, inability to meet basic human needs, and disintegration of social structures.

All arrangements in the city need to be rethought and re-structured in an egalitarian way to facilitate women's participation, starting with spatial arrangements that increase women's visibility.

The socio-psychological needs of women who lost their spouses and children during the curfews should be met immediately.

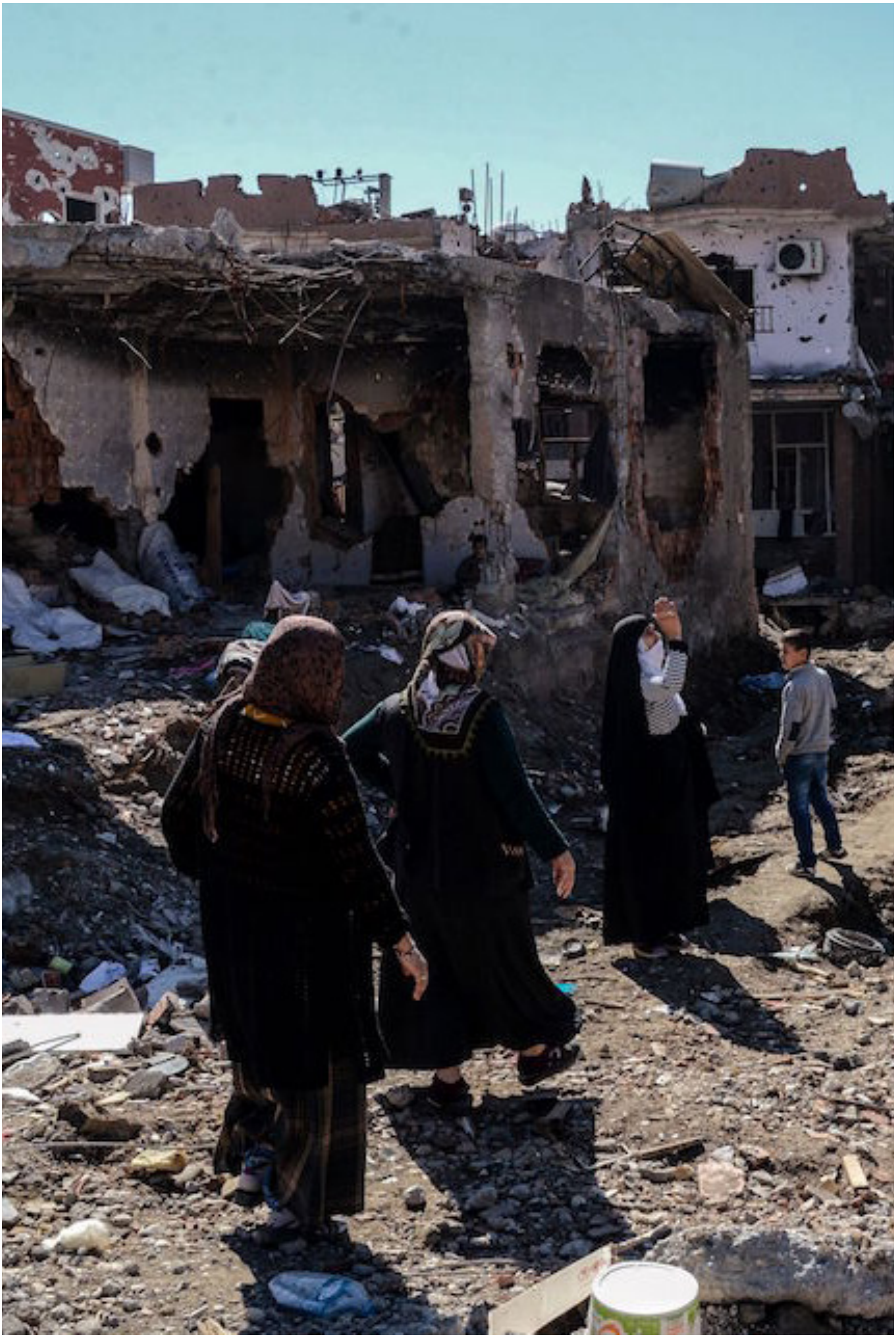
There is a need for regulations that make women beneficiaries of the policies and practices implemented in urban areas and open the way for women's greater participation in social life. Women should be actively involved in these arrangements.

Special women's work support / counseling centers should be created. A common ground should be created for the cooperation between the state, NGOs, victims and larger public.

Attempts should be made to diversify job opportunities that are currently extremely limited for women; courses should be opened to develop women's skills and enable them to participate in workforce as qualified workers.

Places that facilitate women's lives, such as laundry and kindergarten, should be opened or expanded. In these centers, women should be provided with information and counseling services related to their rights.

Training programs should be established according to women's demands. The main element of these policies should be the creation of jobs and training by opening the way for investments to increase employment and stimulating agricultural economy. It is important that trainings are given in the language preferred by participants.



Cizre

Cizre

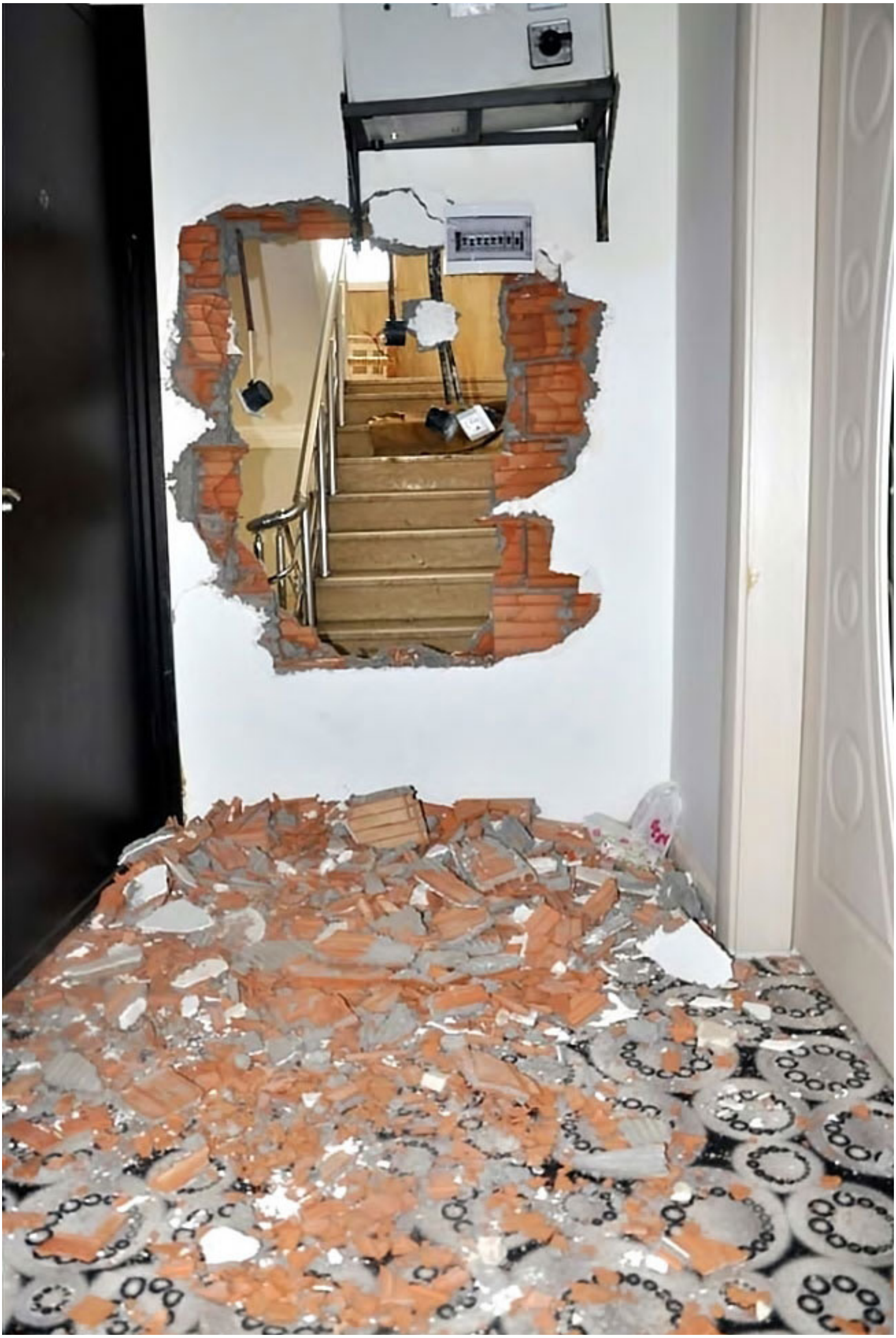
Cizre

Nusaybin

AFP
ILYAS AKENGIN

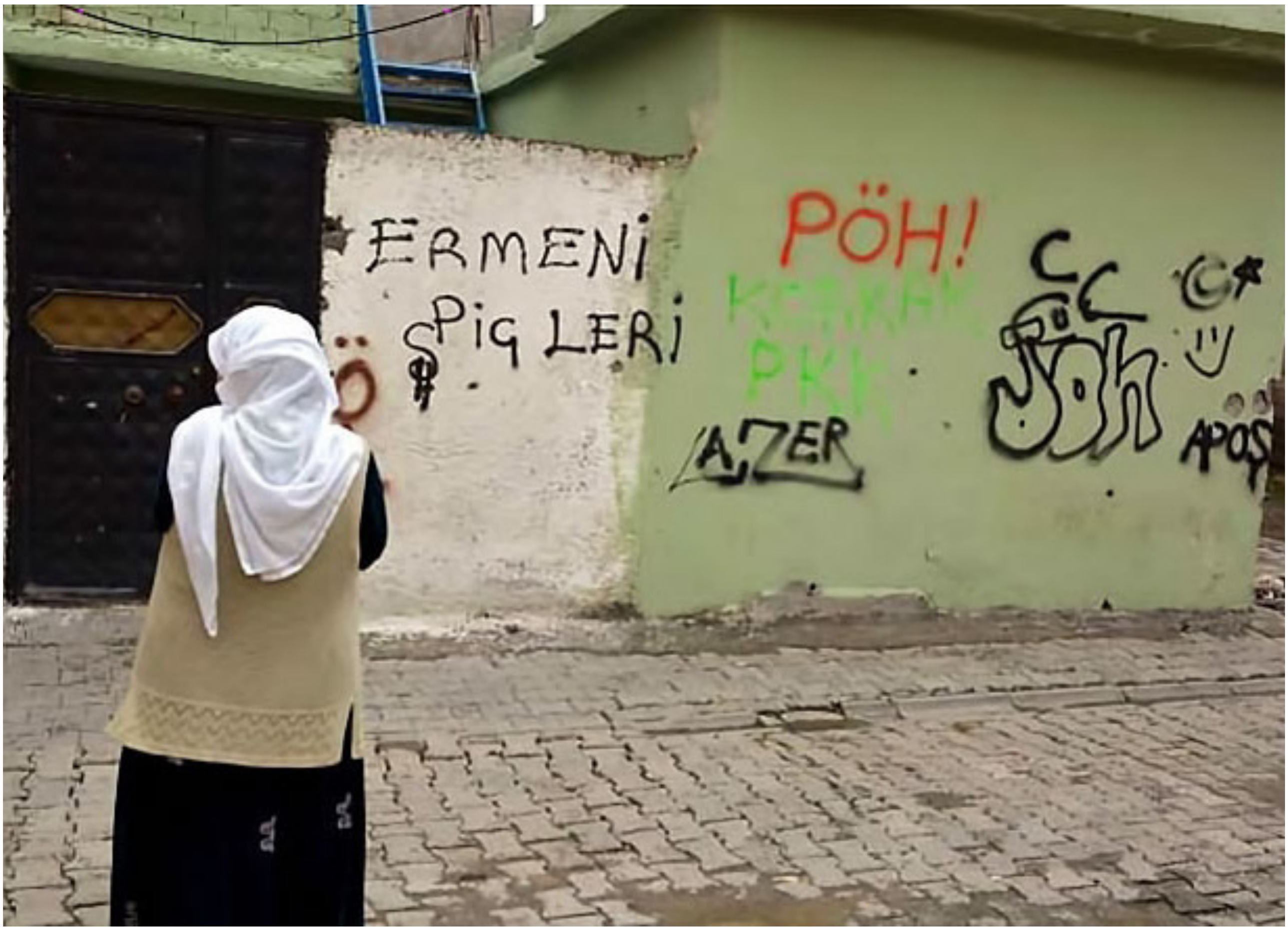
Cizre

Nusaybin

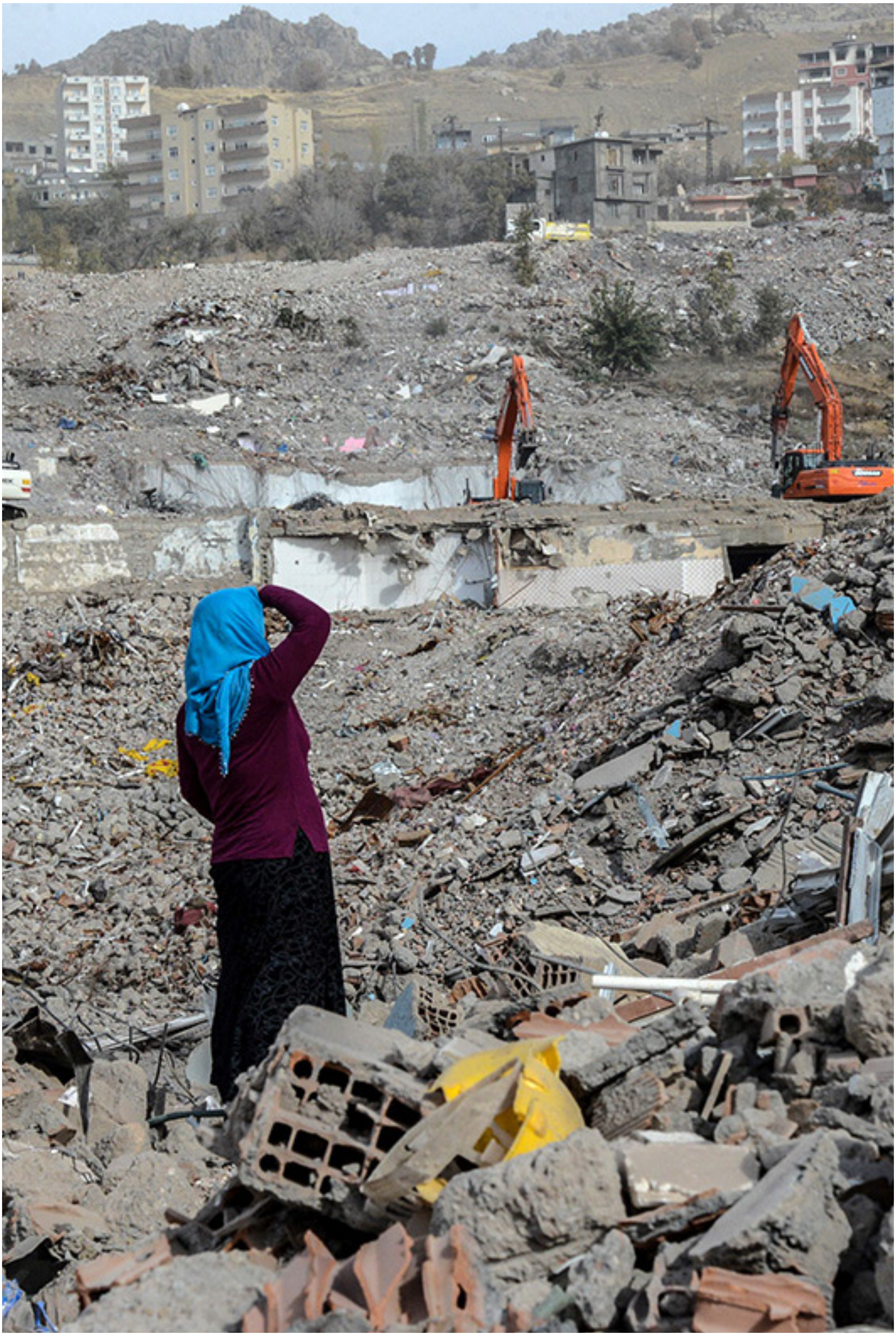


Silopi

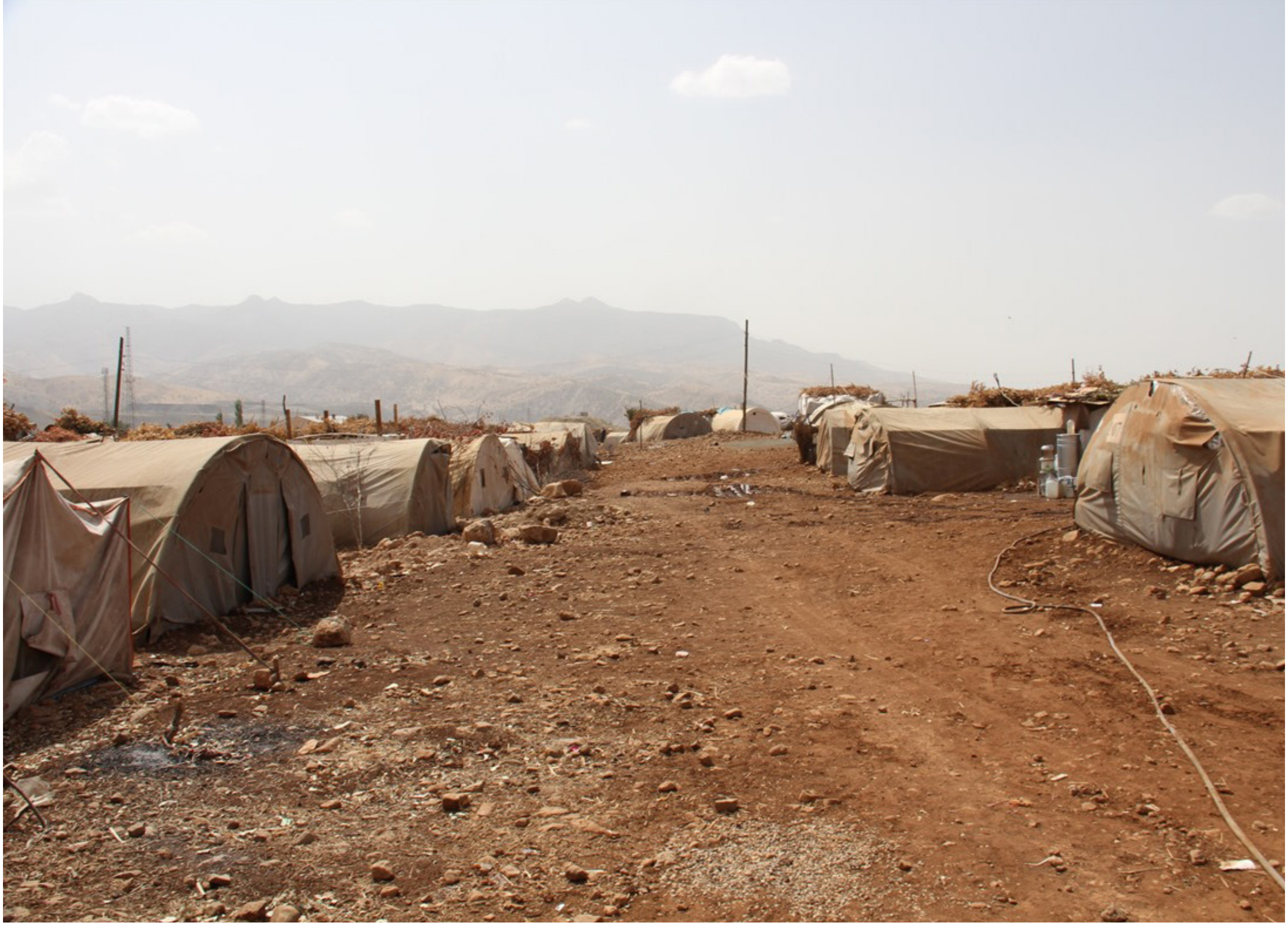
Nusaybin


ERMENi
PiÇ LERi
Ö
PÖH!
PKK
AZER
JÖH
APOŞ

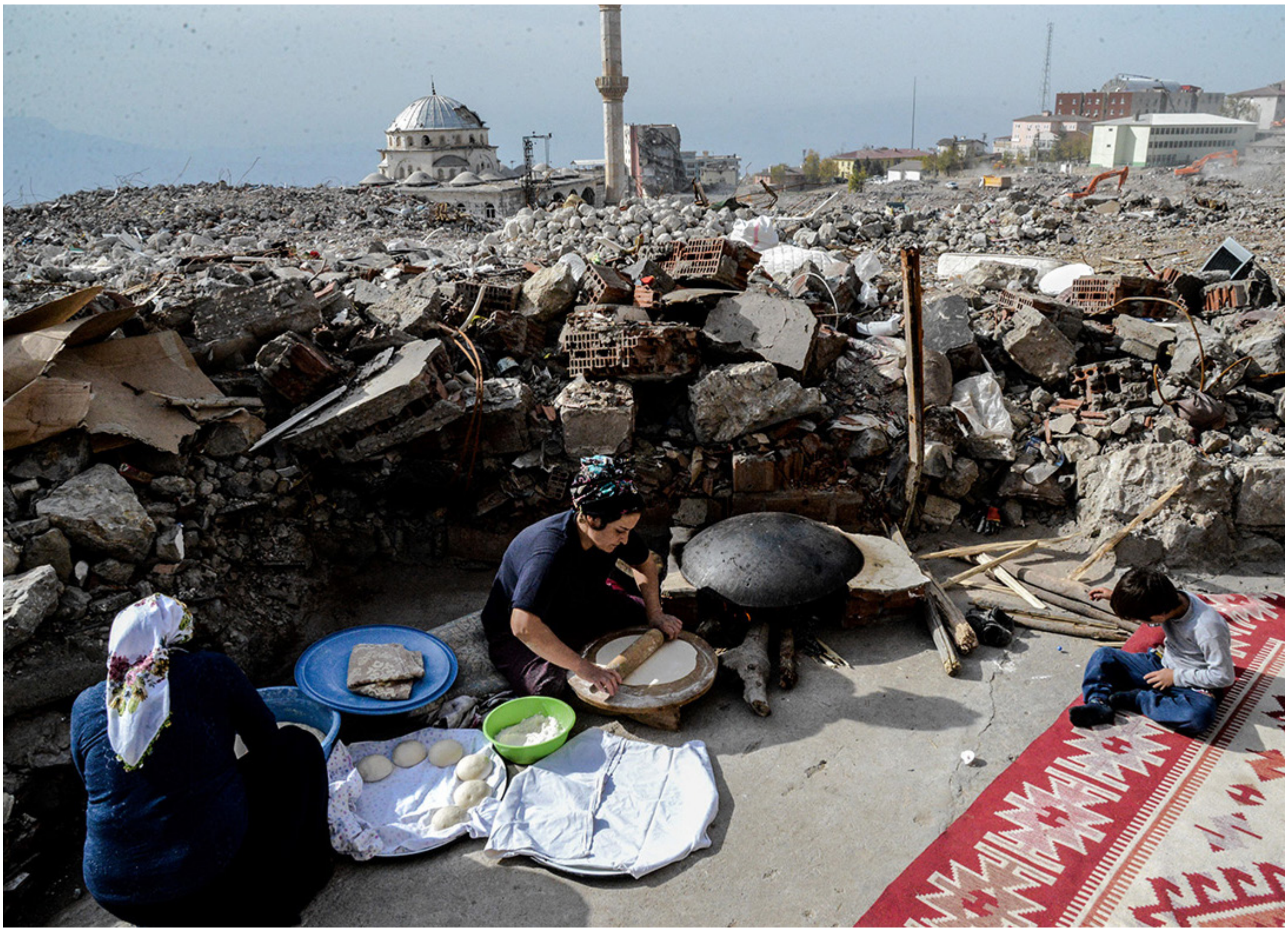
Silopi



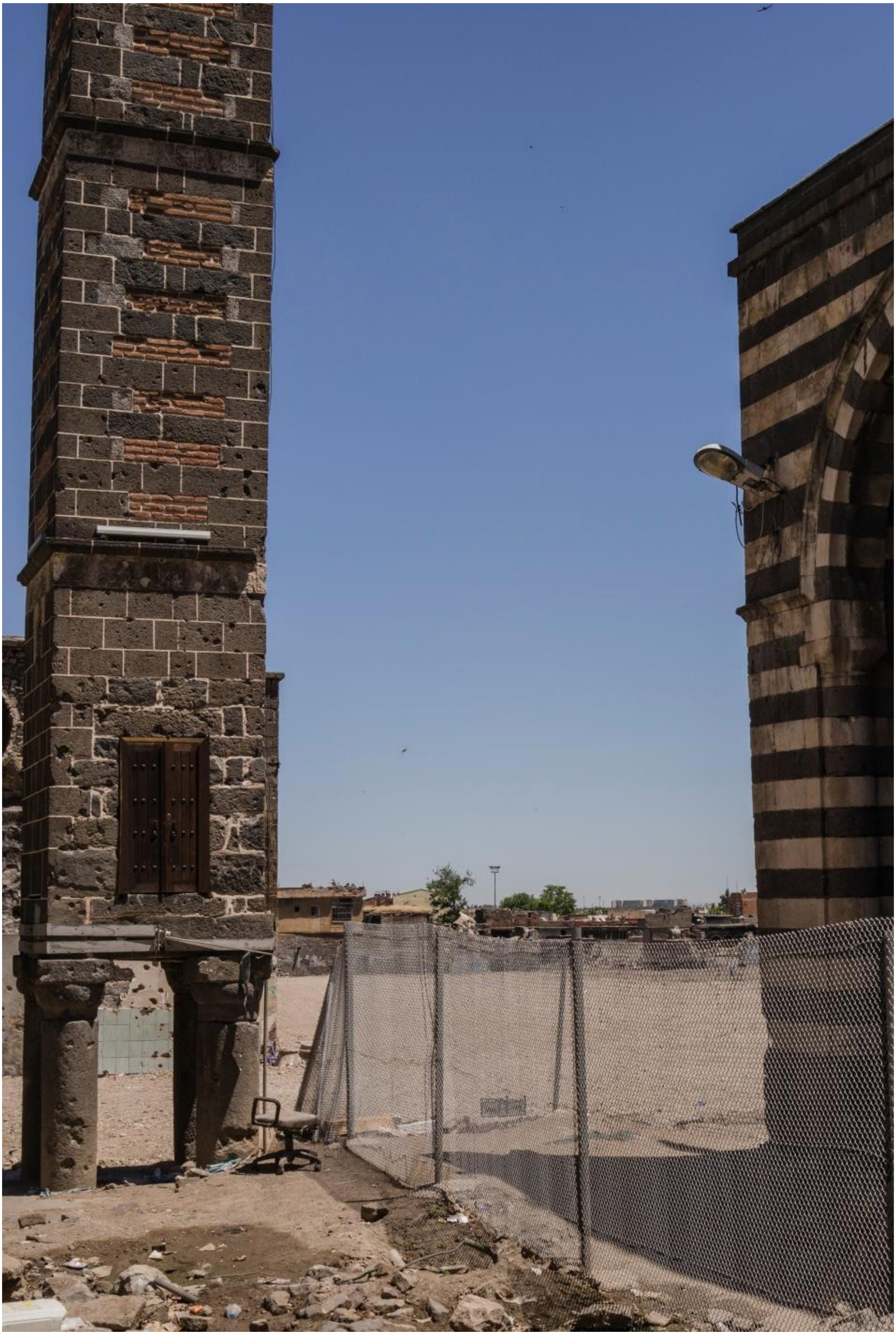
Şırnak



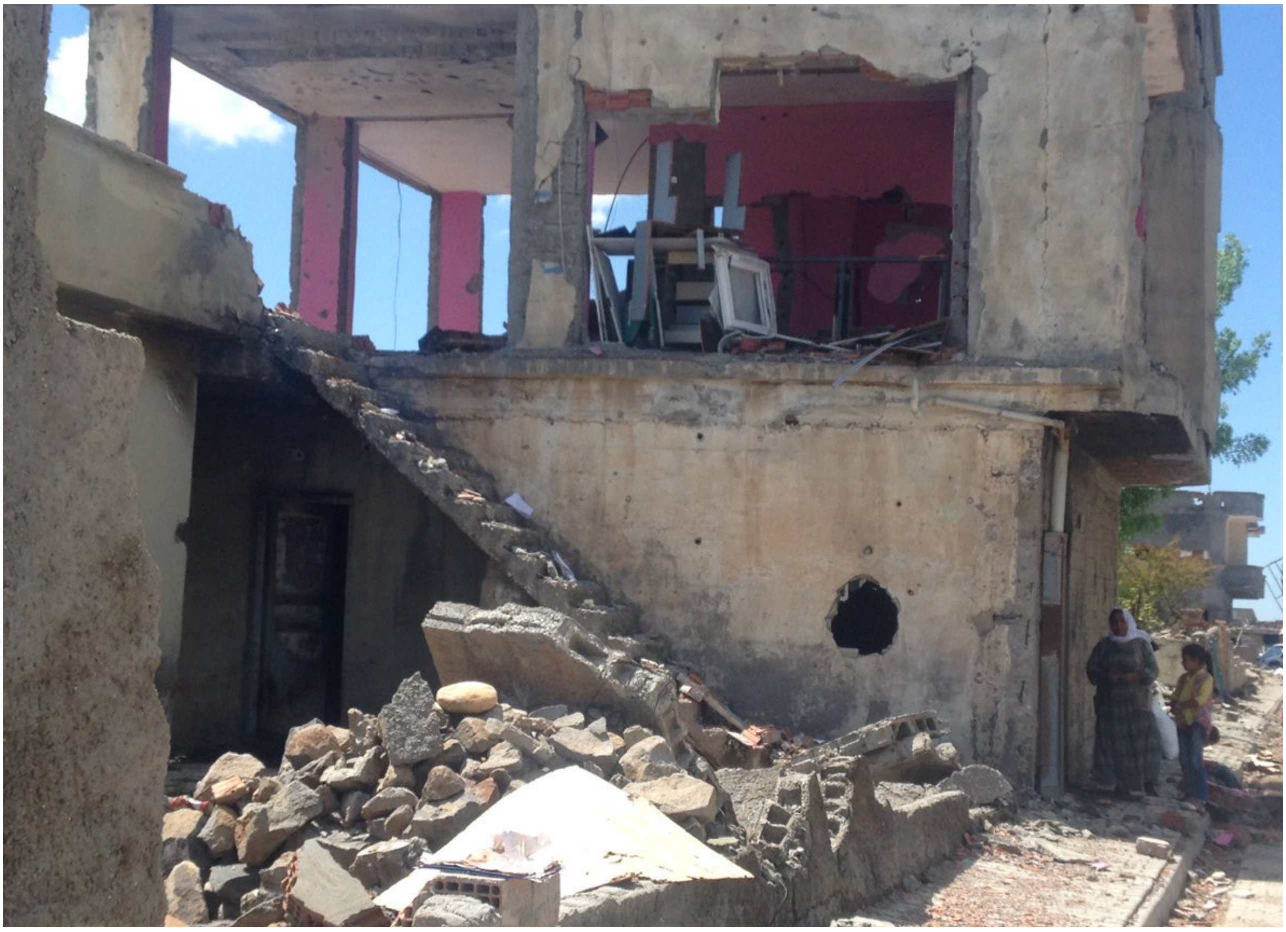
Şırnak



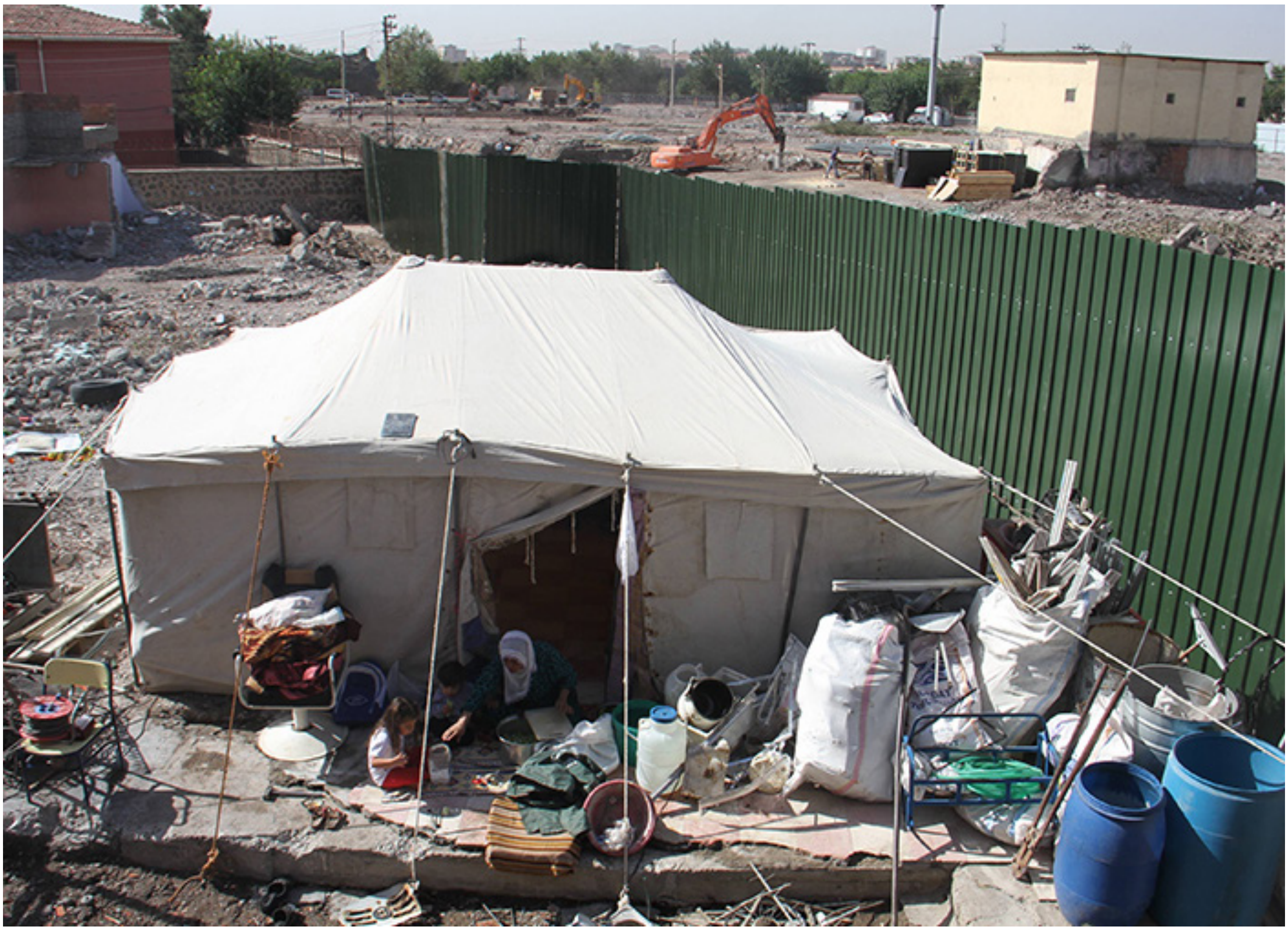
Şırnak



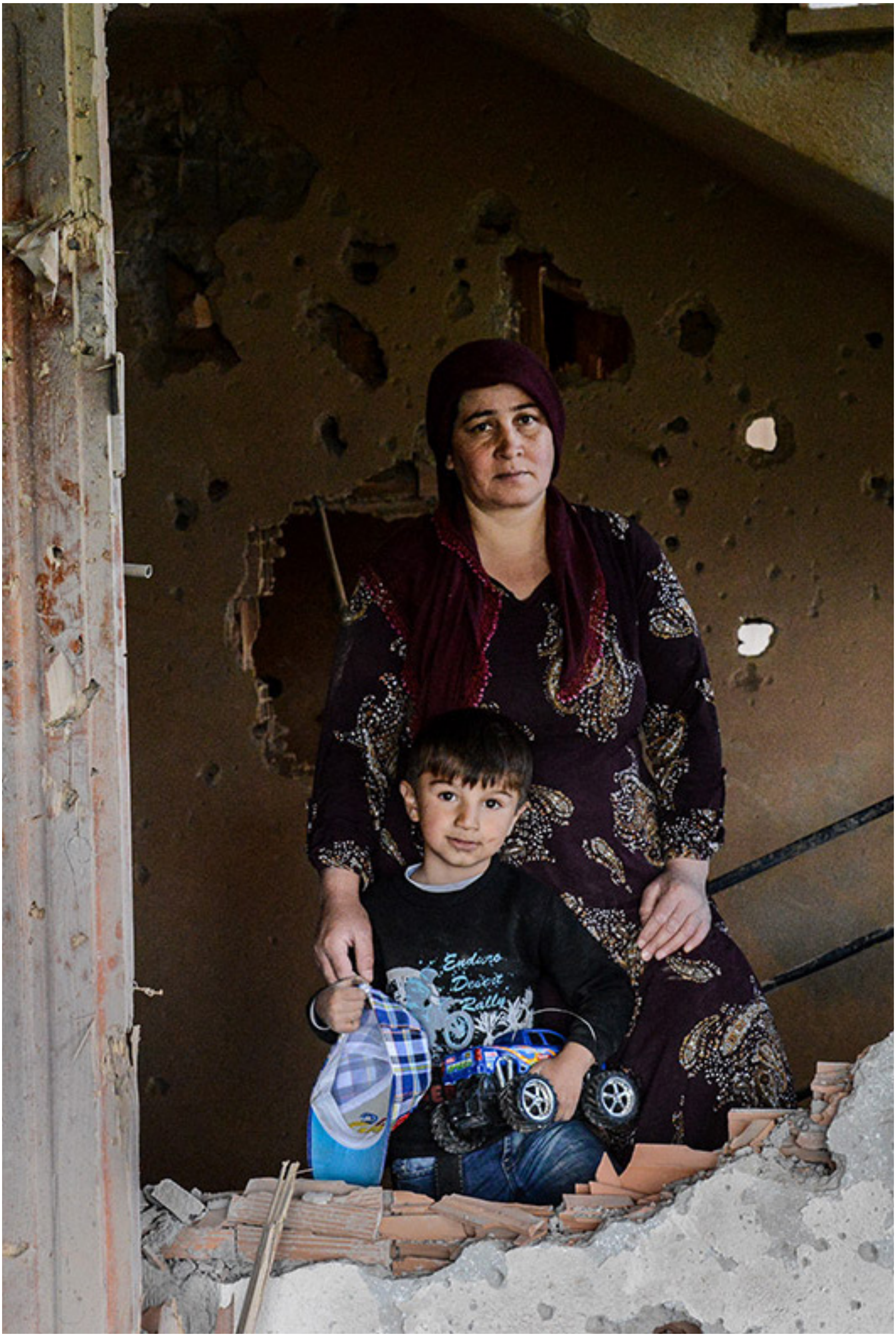
Sur



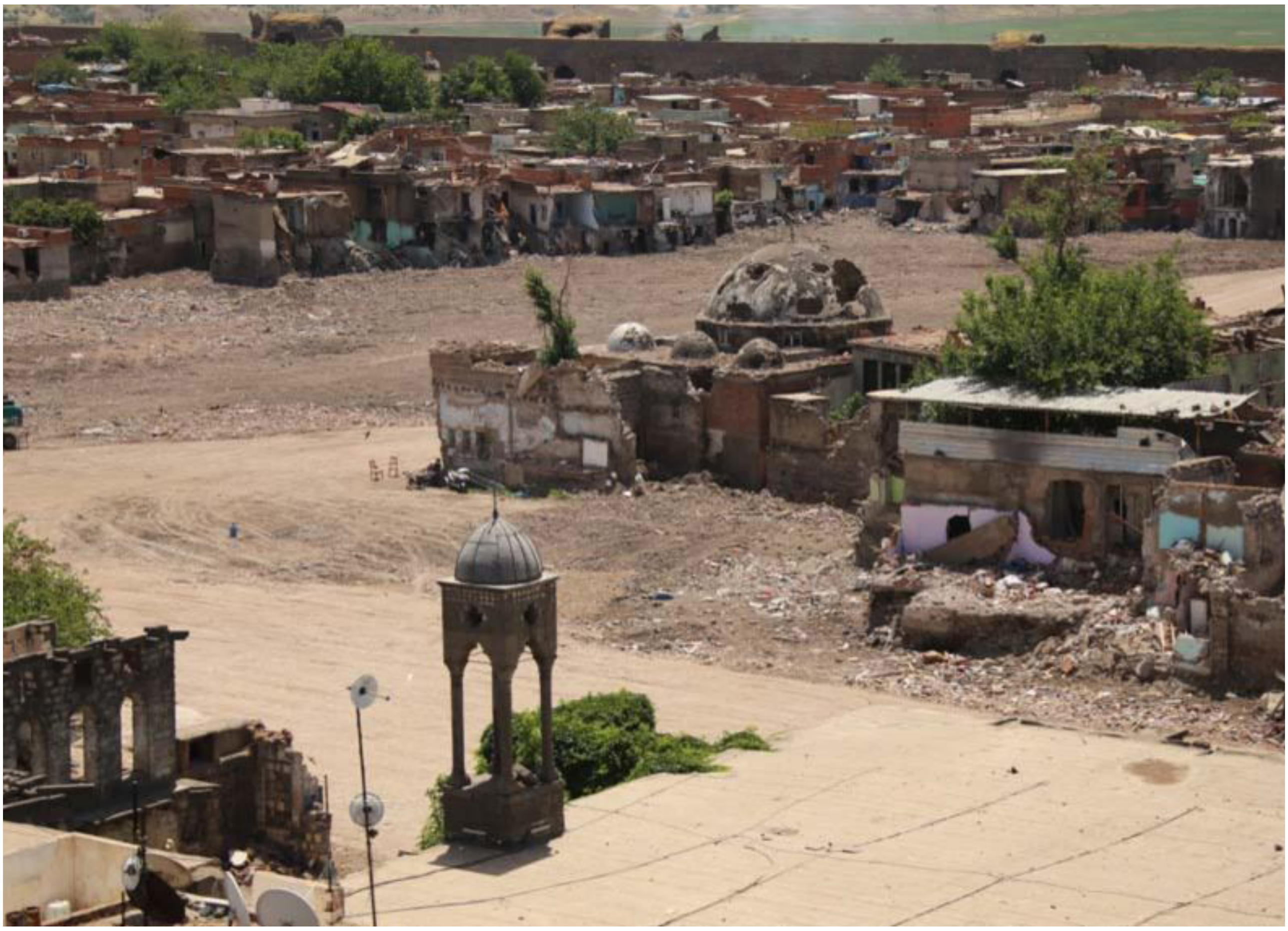
İdil



Sur

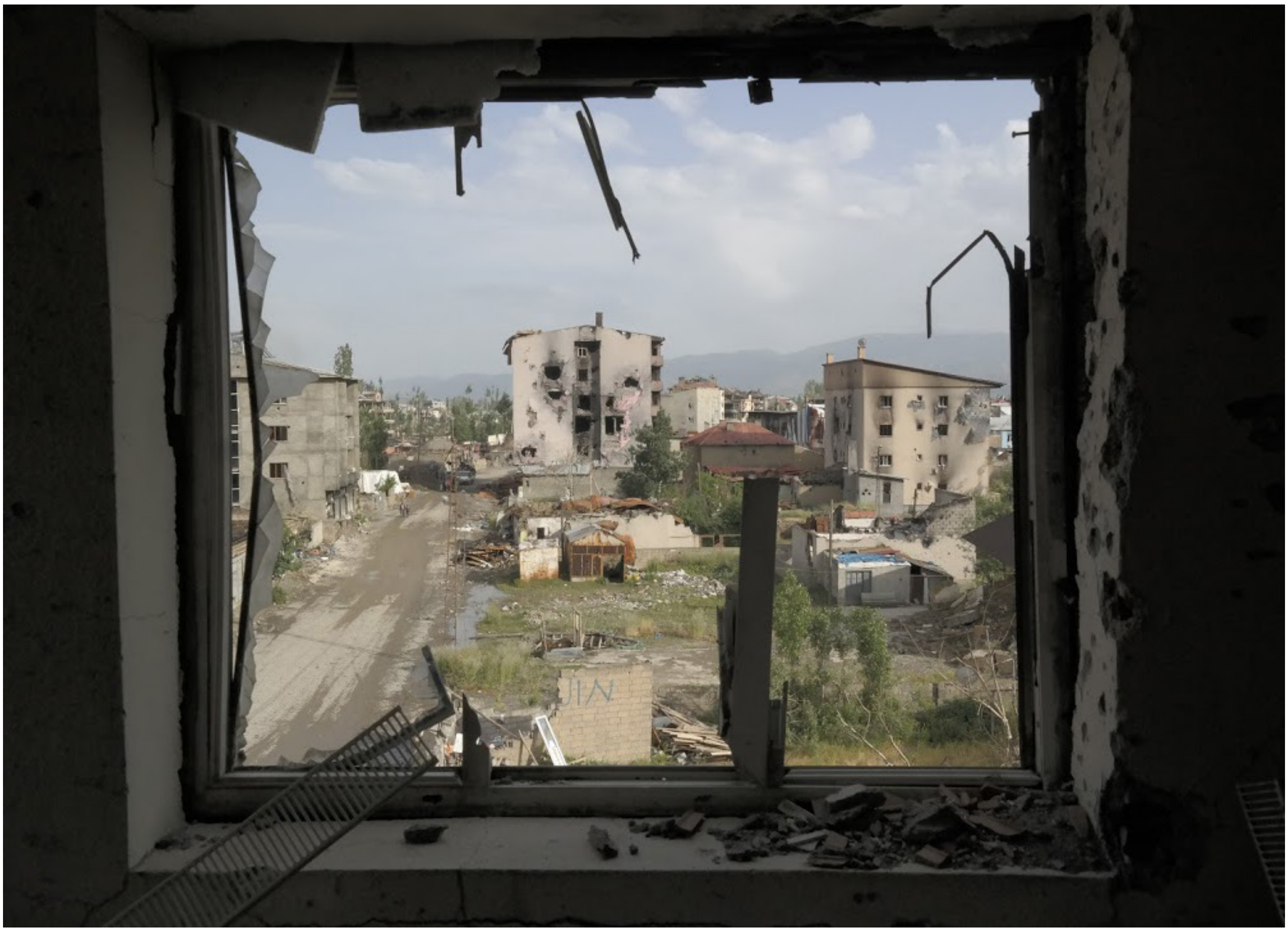

Enduro
Desert
Rally

Yüksekova

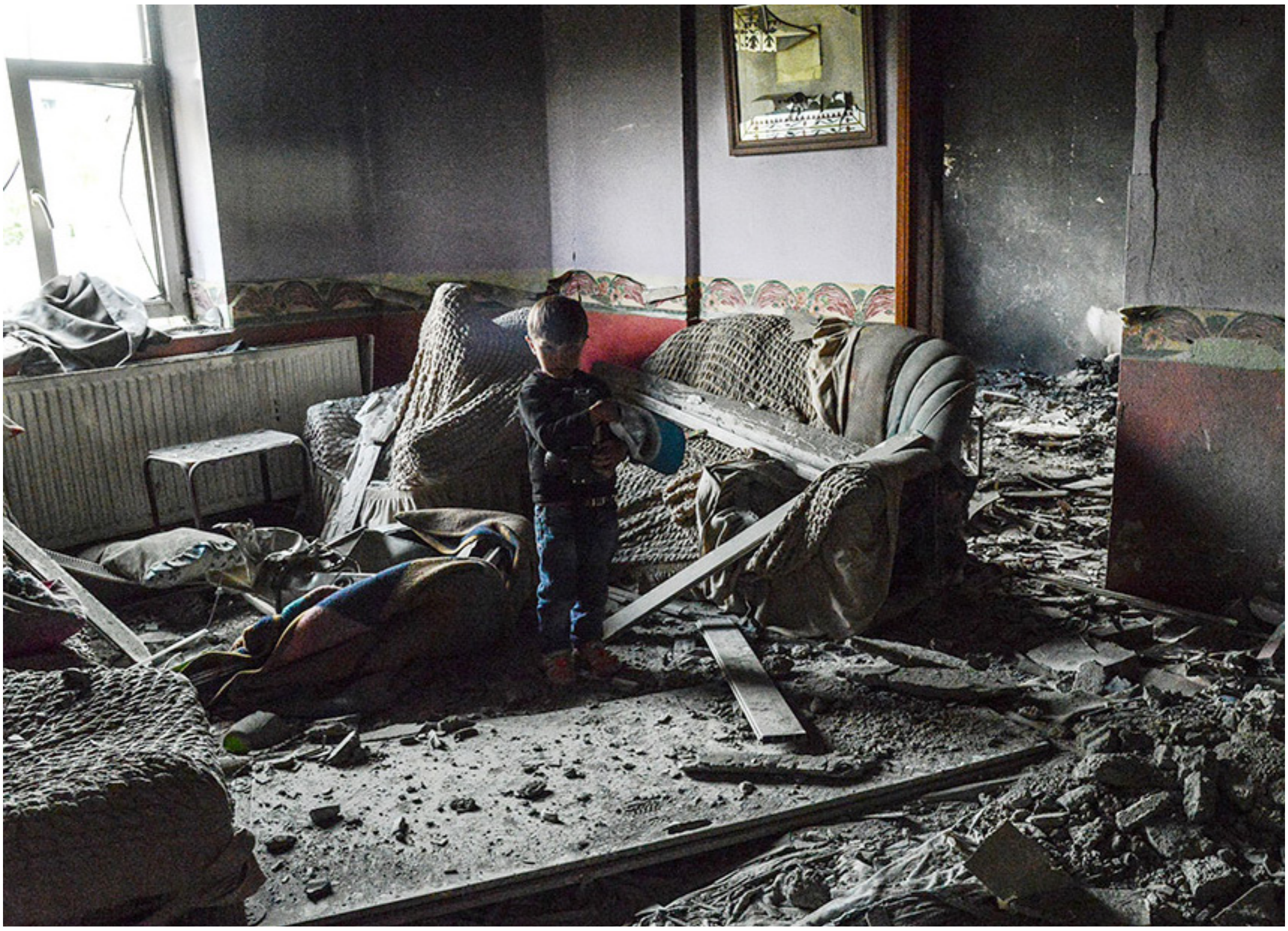


Sur

Sur



Yüksekova

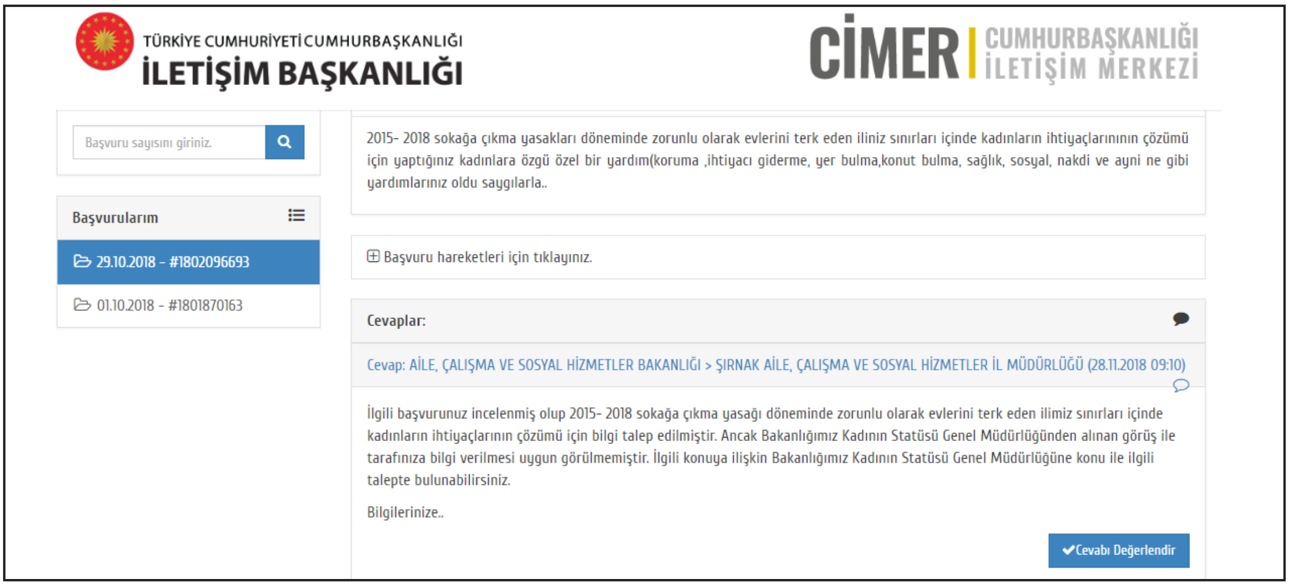


Yüksekova

ADDS

INFORMATION ARE DEMANDED FROM THE OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS

Information was demanded related specifically to women who had human rights violations during and after 2015-2016 curfew from the offiical institutions having responsibilities within their provincial borders.


TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI
İLETİŞİM BAŞKANLIĞI
CİMER
CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI İLETİŞİM MERKEZİ
Başvuru sayısını giriniz.
Başvurularım
29.10.2018 - #1802096693
01.10.2018 - #1801870163
Başvuru hareketleri için tıklayınız.
Cevaplar:
Cevabı Değerlendir

2015- 2018 sokağa çıkma yasakları döneminde zorunlu olarak evlerini terk eden iliniz sınırları içinde kadınların ihtiyaçlarınının çözümü için yaptığınız kadınlara özgü özel bir yardım(koruma ,ihtiyacı giderme, yer bulma,konut bulma, sağlık, sosyal, nakdi ve ayni ne gibi yardımlarınız oldu saygılarla..

Cevap: AİLE, ÇALIŞMA VE SOSYAL HİZMETLER BAKANLIĞI > ŞIRNAK AİLE, ÇALIŞMA VE SOSYAL HİZMETLER İL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ (28.11.2018 09:10)

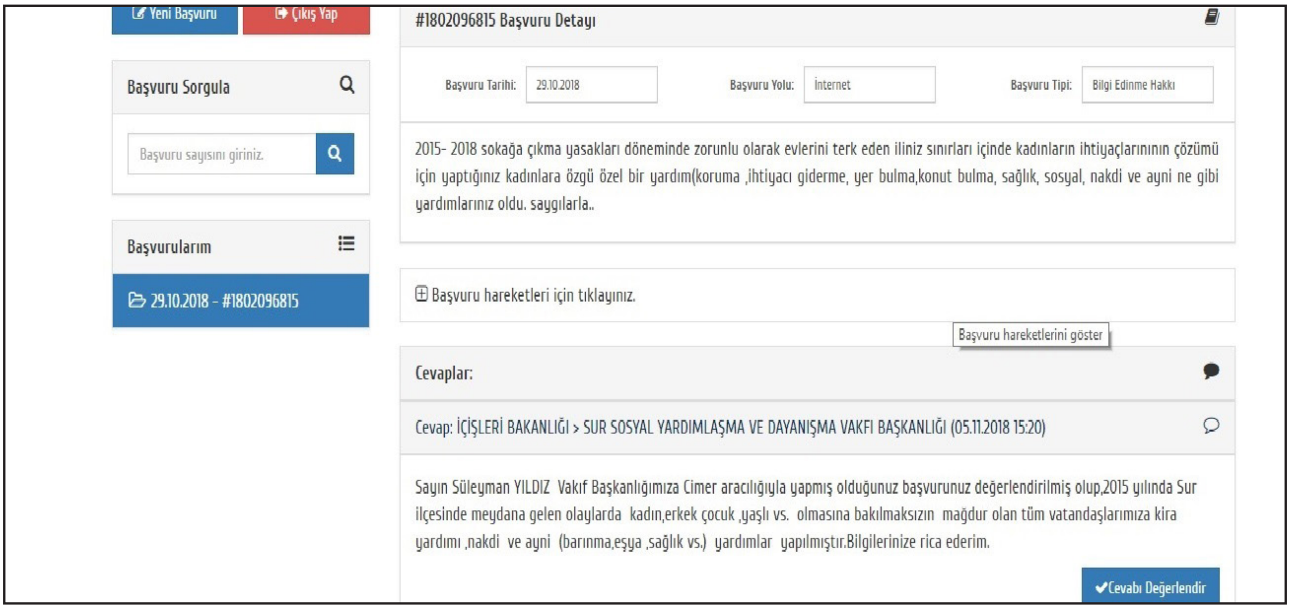
İlgili başvurunuz incelenmiş olup 2015- 2018 sokağa çıkma yasağı döneminde zorunlu olarak evlerini terk eden ilimiz sınırları içinde kadınların ihtiyaçlarının çözümü için bilgi talep edilmiştir. Ancak Bakanlığımız Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğünden alınan görüş ile tarafınıza bilgi verilmesi uygun görülmemiştir. İlgili konuya ilişkin Bakanlığımız Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğüne konu ile ilgili talepte bulunabilirsiniz.

Bilgilerinize..

Request 1: Have you provided any aid (protection, shelter, finding home, medical, social, and monetary) specifically to women who were forced to leave their home during 2015-2018 curfew within your provincial borders? Sincerely

Response: (Ministry of Family and Social Policy Services - Şirnak Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Policies), 11.28.2018, 9:10 AM.

Your application related to women who were forced to leave their home during 2015-2018 curfew within your provincial borders was reviewed. However, as a result of the opinion collected from our Ministry`s “General Directorate on the Status of Woman,” it has not been viewed as appropriate to supply information to your side. You may request in respect of the matter to our Ministry`s General Directorate on the Status of Woman.


Yeni Başvuru
Çıkış Yap
Başvuru Sorgula
Başvuru sayısını giriniz.
Başvurularım
29.10.2018 - #1802096815

#1802096815 Başvuru Detayı

Başvuru Tarihi: 29.10.2018
Başvuru Yolu: İnternet
Başvuru Tipi: Bilgi Edinme Hakkı

2015- 2018 sokağa çıkma yasakları döneminde zorunlu olarak evlerini terk eden iliniz sınırları içinde kadınların ihtiyaçlarınının çözümü için yaptığınız kadınlara özgü özel bir yardım(koruma ,ihtiyacı giderme, yer bulma,konut bulma, sağlık, sosyal, nakdi ve ayni ne gibi yardımlarınız oldu. saygılarla..

⊞ Başvuru hareketleri için tıklayınız.
Başvuru hareketlerini göster

Cevaplar:

Cevap: İÇİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI > SUR SOSYAL YARDIMLAŞMA VE DAYANIŞMA VAKFI BAŞKANLIĞI (05.11.2018 15:20)

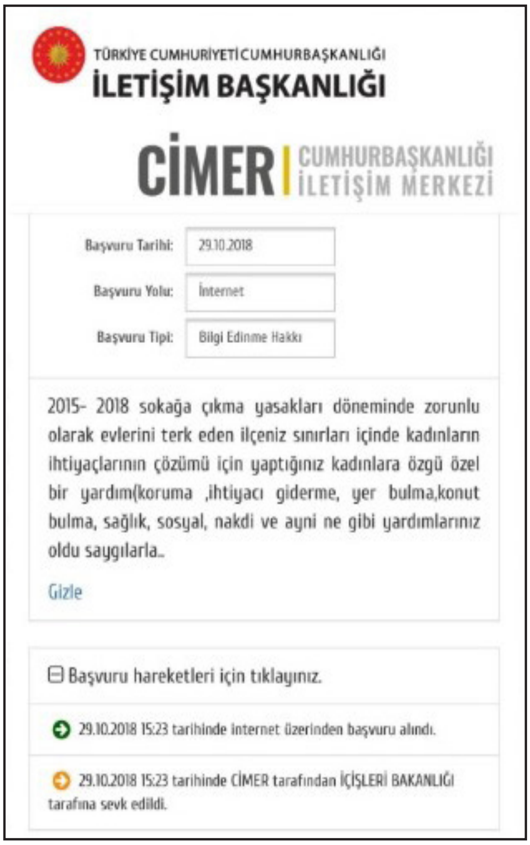
Sayın Süleyman YILDIZ Vakıf Başkanlığımıza Cimer aracılığıyla yapmış olduğunuz başvurunuz değerlendirilmiş olup,2015 yılında Sur ilçesinde meydana gelen olaylarda kadın,erkek çocuk ,yaşlı vs. olmasına bakılmaksızın mağdur olan tüm vatandaşlarımıza kira yardımı ,nakdi ve ayni (barınma,eşya ,sağlık vs.) yardımlar yapılmıştır.Bilgilerinize rica ederim.

✔Cevabı Değerlendir

Request 2: Have you provided any aid (protection, shelter, finding home, health, social, and monetary) specifically to women who were forced to leave their home during 2015-2018 curfew within your provincial borders? Sincerely

Response: (Ministry of the Interior-Chairmanship of Sur Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation) 11.05.2018, 15:20 PM.

Dear Mr. Suleyman Yıldız, we reviewed your application that you applied to the Chairmanship of our foundation through CIMER. We have assisted by providing rent assistance, shelter, goods, and medical etc. regardless woman, man, child, and elder who suffered during incidents that occurred in Sur neighborhood in 2015.


TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI
İLETİŞİM BAŞKANLIĞI
CİMER CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI İLETİŞİM MERKEZİ

Başvuru Tarihi: 29.10.2018
Başvuru Yolu: İnternet
Başvuru Tipi: Bilgi Edinme Hakkı

2015- 2018 sokağa çıkma yasakları döneminde zorunlu olarak evlerini terk eden ilçeniz sınırları içinde kadınların ihtiyaçlarının çözümü için yaptığınız kadınlara özgü özel bir yardım(koruma ,ihtiyacı giderme, yer bulma,konut bulma, sağlık, sosyal, nakdi ve ayni ne gibi yardımlarınız oldu saygılarla..

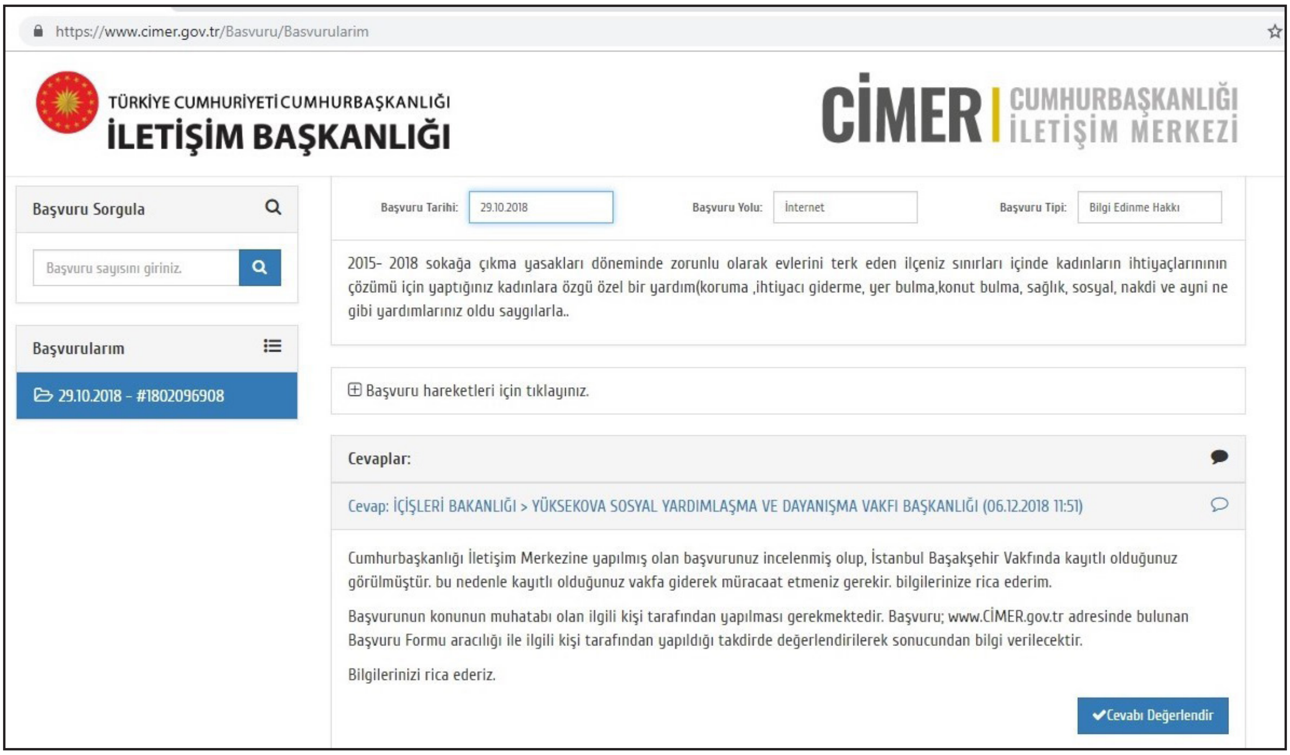
Gizle
⊟ Başvuru hareketleri için tıklayınız.

29.10.2018 15:23 tarihinde internet üzerinden başvuru alındı.

29.10.2018 15:23 tarihinde CİMER tarafından İÇİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI tarafına sevk edildi.

Request: What kind of aid (protection, shelter, finding home, medical, social and monetary) did you provide specifically to women who were forced to leave their home during 2015-2018 curfew within your provincial borders? Sincerely

Application for request information related to Mardin and its district of Nusaybin was taken but there is stil no response.


https://www.cimer.gov.tr/Basvuru/Basvurularim
TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI
İLETİŞİM BAŞKANLIĞI
CİMER
CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI İLETİŞİM MERKEZİ
Başvuru Sorgula
Başvuru sayısını giriniz.
Başvurularım
29.10.2018 - #1802096908
Başvuru hareketleri için tıklayınız.
Cevaplar:
✔Cevabı Değerlendir

Başvuru Tarihi: 29.10.2018
Başvuru Yolu: İnternet
Başvuru Tipi: Bilgi Edinme Hakkı

2015- 2018 sokağa çıkma yasakları döneminde zorunlu olarak evlerini terk eden ilçeniz sınırları içinde kadınların ihtiyaçlarınının çözümü için yaptığınız kadınlara özgü özel bir yardım(koruma ,ihtiyacı giderme, yer bulma,konut bulma, sağlık, sosyal, nakdi ve ayni ne gibi yardımlarınız oldu saygılarla..

Cevap: İÇİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI > YÜKSEKOVA SOSYAL YARDIMLAŞMA VE DAYANIŞMA VAKFI BAŞKANLIĞI (06.12.2018 11:51)

Cumhurbaşkanlığı İletişim Merkezine yapılmış olan başvurunuz incelenmiş olup, İstanbul Başakşehir Vakfında kayıtlı olduğunuz görülmüştür. bu nedenle kayıtlı olduğunuz vakfa giderek müracaat etmeniz gerekir. bilgilerinize rica ederim.

Başvurunun konunun muhatabı olan ilgili kişi tarafından yapılması gerekmektedir. Başvuru; www.CİMER.gov.tr adresinde bulunan Başvuru Formu aracılığı ile ilgili kişi tarafından yapıldığı takdirde değerlendirilerek sonucundan bilgi verilecektir.

Bilgilerinizi rica ederiz.

Request 3: Have you provided any aid (protection, shelter, finding home, health, social, and monetary) specifically to women who were forced to leave their home during 2015-2018 curfew within your provincial borders? Sincerely

Response: (Ministry of the Interior-Chairmanship of Yuksekova Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation) 12.05.2018, 11:51 AM.

Your application that you submitted to Presidential Communication Center was reviewed and it looks like you are registered Istanbul Basaksehir Foundation. For this reason, you have to apply to the foundation that you are registered.

Application must be submitted in person. Fill out Application Form via www.CIMER.gov.tr. You will be informed after your application review.

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES